



BBA Field Preparation Notes

Removing Puddles

The Pole Barn and Small Concession stand is equipped with mop buckets and puddle pillows. Place the puddle pillow in the middle of the puddle and let it absorb the water. Squeeze pillow through mop bucket ringer while applying other pillows. Repeat until there is no more water.

In between fields 3 & 4 is a large mound of Fielder's Choice +10 blended field dirt. Fill area left behind by the puddle and rake in

DO NOT SWEEP OUT THE PUDDLES WITH BROOMS – That will only cause more problems later.

The use of more than four bags of field dry will cause the surface to become slippery on dry days. *If it is going to take more than four bags of field dry then postpone the game for another day.*

Dragging the fields

There are two types of field drags in the Pole Barn. A metal mat drag and a spike drag. The metal mat drag will smooth the surface while the spike drag will loosen the surface. Using both will help level the field by cutting down high spots and filling low spots.

1. Remove the bases and any junk from the field like sticks, rocks, or grass clippings.
2. Spike drag slowly.
3. Slowly drag the field with a metal mat drag. Keep the drag at least 6 inches from the grass edge to prevent lip build up.

Tips & Hints

1. Change the direction of dragging frequently to prevent constant buildup at the same places. the spiral dragging method is usually the best for not causing buildups.
2. Use a field rake along the grass edge to level it.
3. Don't just drag before practice or a game. Drag afterwards and you'll have a better field. If you don't, the foot marks harden from the overnight dew or rain. You'll have to work harder the next day.

Mistakes to avoid

1. Always entering and exiting the field at the same place with the drag. It's not unusual for a field to have a lump or high place at 3B or 1B where the drag always stops leaving a build up of dirt.
2. Biggest mistake - not dragging before or after games and practices. Just letting your infield dirt go to pot.
3. Don't drive too fast. It doesn't smooth it out and causes build up on the turns.
4. And, of course dragging past the dirt onto the grass is a very bad idea and will cause a lip buildup.