

Baseball/Softball Field Safety and Maintenance Checklist

Prior to practice or a game, assess the following field characteristics and make the necessary corrections to the statements marked, 'No/Needs Attn' before allowing players on the field. If your field is experiencing major problems, including excessive wear, drainage issues, design flaws, etc., contact the STMA at ph. 800-323-3875, or STMAinfo@STMA.org for a referral to a local STMA chapter volunteer in your area for advice.

Skinned Areas

Yes No/Needs Attn

- The soil is not too loose and provides good running traction.
- The soil surface is loose enough around sliding zones for safe sliding.
- The soil is not too abrasive for safe sliding.
- The soil is not too compacted to provide good drainage.
- Running paths and sliding zones near bases are level and not worn.
- Batter's box and home plate areas are in good condition.
- Pitcher's mound is in good condition.
- The skinned area is level and does not have low spots or holes.
- There is no hazardous soil buildup (lip) between the skinned area and the turf.
- The skinned area is dry.
- When moist, the skinned area is not too sticky and does not adhere to shoes.
- Coach's box is level with surrounding area.
- Coach's box is not excessively hard.
- On-deck or walkway from dugout is not excessively hard and compacted.
- Unsafe obstacles such as hard gravel and framing boards do not exist in on-deck or walkway areas from dugouts.

Comments

Pitcher's Mound

Yes No/Needs Attn

- The mound conforms to league requirements.
- Platform area behind the rubber is large enough.
- "Push off" and "landing" areas are constructed with specialized clay.
- "Push-off" and "landing" areas are not dished out and in need of repair.
- There is not a hazardous soil buildup (lip) between the mound and the infield grass.

Comments

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Playing Surface

Yes No/Needs Attn

- Maintenance equipment, such as rakes, hoes, etc. have been removed from the field.
- Litter and unsafe debris have been removed from the field and player/spectator areas.
- The sprinkler heads should be installed as per manufacturer's recommendations with no protrusions on the playing surface.
- If there is an irrigation system, it is timed correctly to irrigate the appropriate amount of time prior to play.
- The field was constructed according to recommended industry specifications.

Comments

Turf Areas

Yes No/Needs Attn

- There is at least 75 percent coverage of turfgrass on the field.
- There are no bare spots with a hard soil surface exposed.
- Soil is well drained with no standing water.
- Turfgrass is uniform in color, height and density.
- Turfgrass has strong root system, limiting "blow-outs."
- There are no weeds with thorns, bristles or burrs.
- There are no holes or mounds made by moles, gophers, or other animals.
- There are no ruts or trenches caused by equipment use or field wear.
- There has been communication between the maintenance staff and coach/facility user.

Comments

Bases and Anchoring

Yes No/Needs Attn.

- The base coverings do not have unsafe rips or gouges.
- The base framework or hardware is not loose or damaged.
- The base ground stake is safely below the surface grade.
- The base ground stake is firmly secured in its concrete footing.
- The base, ground stake and its footing are installed according to the manufacturer's requirement.
- The bases seat properly with the ground elevation and are seated securely.
- The concrete footings will not twist out of place in the ground.
- The surface of home plate is level with the surrounding surface.
- The pitcher's rubber is level with the surrounding surface and is secured safely in the ground.

Comments

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Fencing

(If your field does not have fencing, skip this section)

- | Yes | No/Needs Attn. |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Fences are securely set in the ground. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Fence posts are outside of the playing area. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> There are no concrete footings exposed above ground. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Fencing is securely attached to its posts. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> There are no large gaps in the fencing, or between the ground and the fence. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Top and bottom tension wires are in place to secure the fence. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> The wire ends of the fence are not exposed at the top or corners. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> There are no damaged areas that protrude, are sharp or loose. |

Comments

Lighting

(If your field does not have lighting, skip this section)

- | Yes | No/Needs Attn. |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Lighting has been installed and inspected by a trained engineer or technician. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> All lights are working. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> The light's beam adequately and uniformly covers the field. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> The lighting foot candles meet industry recommended specifications. |

Comments

Bleachers/Facility

(If your field does not have bleachers/facility, skip this section)

- | Yes | No/Needs Attn. |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Nuts and bolts are tight and in sufficient number. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Guard rails are securely in place. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> The plank or railing end caps are securely in place. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> There are no splinters or worn areas (wooden bleachers). |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> There are no hazardous protrusions or sharp edges. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> The supply and location of waste cans is adequate. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> There is appropriate signage notifying players and spectators of rules, appropriate behavior and deficient conditions. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> There are public telephones or staffed office for emergency situations. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Areas under repair are identified and posted appropriately. |

Comments

General

- | Yes | No/Needs Attn. |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> There is a flag or other signaling system to alert players to leave the field if inclement weather or other danger is imminent. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Skinned foul lines are in good condition. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> The chalking material is not irritating to eyes. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> There are public telephones available for emergency situations. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Areas that are hazardous or under repair have been blocked off or identified. |

Comments
