

Major League Infield  
Skin Management For  
High School Sports Fields

**Keith Fisher**

Supervisor Of Grounds  
Central Regional School District



“The basic principles of groundskeeping is no different from little league to the major leagues, what sets us apart is our attention to detail.”

Dan Cunningham, New York Yankees









GUEST ASSIST 817-746-0088

TEXT MESSAGE, CHARGES, OR REDUCTIONS FOR INSTANT TWO-WAY MESSAGE

NEW YORK STATE POLICE

NEW YORK STATE POLICE

WEATHERPROOF WEATHERPROOF WEATHERPROOF

11

12

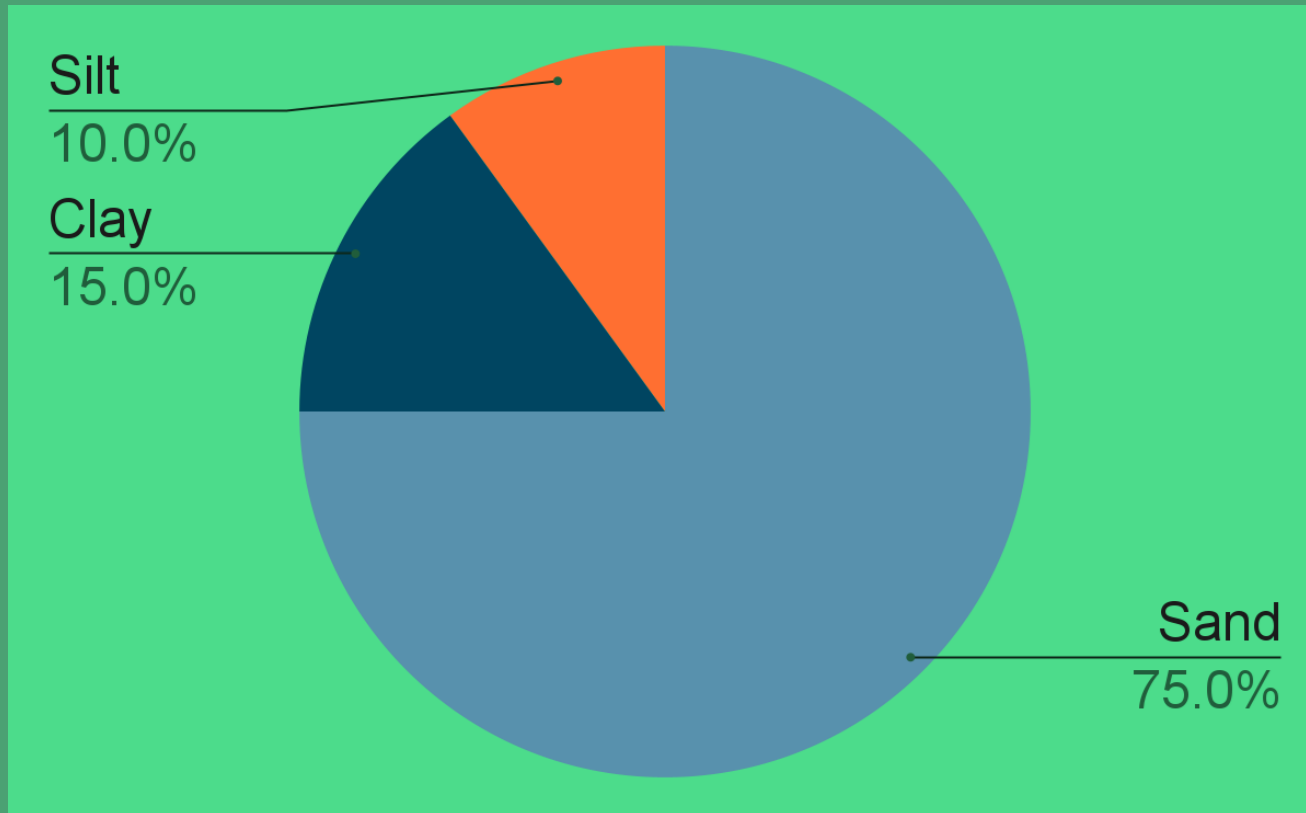
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There is no “perfect” mix.

Most mixes consist of:



However, you can get a mix that suits your level of maintenance...

## PROFESSIONAL



Total Sand	58-62%
Silt/Clay	38-42%
Medium Sand	≥40%
SCR (Silt/Clay Ratio)	0.5-1.0

 Maintenance: Regular

 Water Access: Yes

## INTERMEDIATE



Total Sand	65-69%
Silt/Clay	31-35%
Medium Sand	≥45%
SCR (Silt/Clay Ratio)	0.5-1.0

 Maintenance: Limited

 Water Access: Yes

## RECREATIONAL



Total Sand	70-75%
Silt/Clay	25-30%
Medium Sand	≥50%
SCR (Silt/Clay Ratio)	0.5-1.0

 Maintenance: Volunteer

 Water Access: No



- Sand is going to drain well, but will tend to be loose.
- It is important that sand is balanced out by enough silt and clay.
- It is recommended that an infield has a balanced silt to clay ratio, or SCR, of **1:1**.

- Higher clay content will give you a better playing surface, **but** it needs the highest level of maintenance.
- Higher sand content is easier to maintain, **but** it can become dusty and have small pebbles.
- Most recreational fields should use a mix of higher sand content.
- Professional, college, and some high schools will use a lower sand content with more clay in the mix.







BLUE CLAWS











342



TIGER FIELD



100









CENTRAL BASEBALL

**Your ability to maintain the infield mix will determine your selection:**

- Do you have access to water?
- What resources do you have?
- What are your maintenance practices?
- Do you use infield conditioners?









Water tower

ERITECH

TIGERS

TORO

SAND PRO  
3040



TOP DRESSER  
2500









# Tools

- 36" Landscape Rakes
- 6' x 4' Drag Mat
- 4' x 4' Drag Mat
- Spreader
- Foam Whisker Base Plugs

# **MOISTURE MANAGEMENT**

**IS THE MOST IMPORTANT  
PRACTICE ON A SPORTS FIELD  
ESPECIALLY INFIELD SKINS**









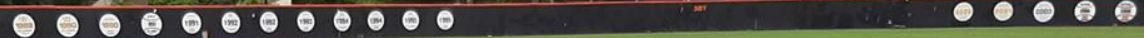








RAYMOND & COPPELY FIELD  
HITS    RBIS    RNS    ERRS  
1    1    1    0









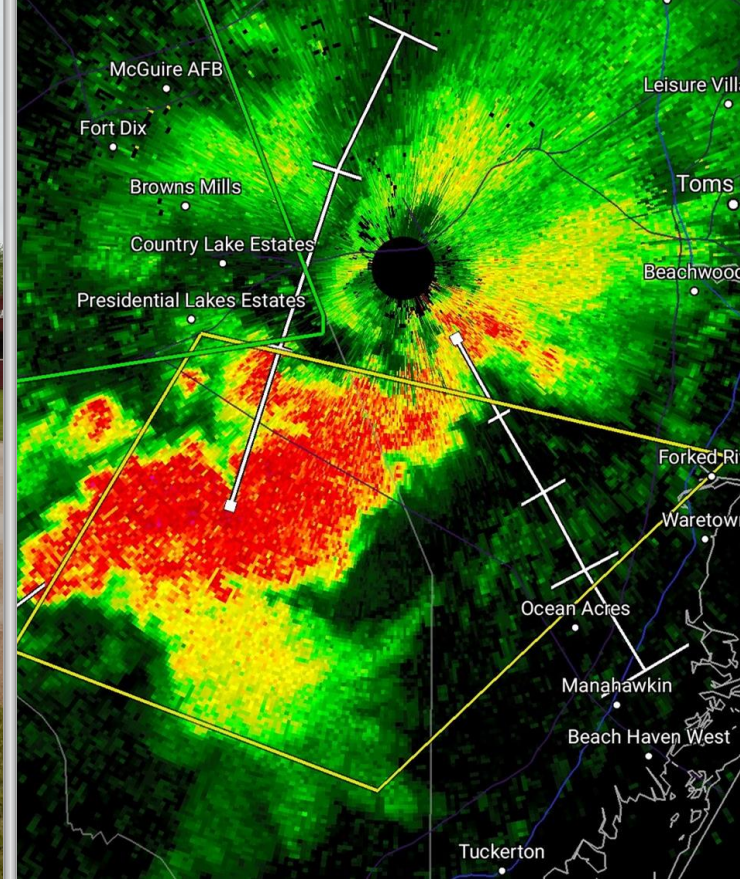






What happens when you don't follow proper infield skin practices?











## Approaching these issues in the off season:

- Take pictures
- Paint around puddles
- On a wet morning (no standing water), open them up with a rake or machine
- Add infield mix with a machine, if possible, or by shovel
- Mix in by hand or machine if it's not wet
- Roll











BALL STRIKE OUT  
HITTING INDIANS

329



## Preseason Infield Maintenance - Mid to Late February

- After the last freeze, or as late as you can, open the infield dirt up and scarify
- Use a box or nail board and float (level) playing surface
- Hand rake to grass edges
- Roll with roller or tractor, something with the weight, until evenly distributed
- Add conditioner with top dresser or just open bags around infield











# In Season Infield Skin Maintenance:

- Watch the weather
- Open up and float once a week (more if you can)
- Drag the field everyday
- If you can, water heavily during the day or the night before a game
- Add conditioner as needed
- Cut grass then work the dirt





















KEN FRANK BASEBALL STADIUM

The INDIANS

2013-2014  
2014-2015  
2015-2016









SCOREBOARD  
CENTRAL BASEBALL  
HOME

22 22 22 10 10 24

CENTRAL BASEBALL

CENTRAL B









CENTRAL BASEBALL













CENTRAL BASEBALL





# COMMUNICATE

- People who **USE** the field
- People who “**OWN**” the field
- People who know “**MORE**”





CENTRAL BASEBALL  
SCOREBOARD

AT	HOME	SCORE	OUTS
1	2	0	0
2	1	0	0
3	0	0	0
4	0	0	0
5	0	0	0
6	0	0	0
7	0	0	0
8	0	0	0
9	0	0	0
10	0	0	0
11	0	0	0
12	0	0	0
13	0	0	0
14	0	0	0
15	0	0	0
16	0	0	0
17	0	0	0
18	0	0	0
19	0	0	0
20	0	0	0
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22	0	0	0
23	0	0	0
24	0	0	0
25	0	0	0
26	0	0	0
27	0	0	0
28	0	0	0
29	0	0	0
30	0	0	0

CENTRAL BASEBALL

CENTRAL BASEBALL





CENTRAL BASEBALL





**SPORTS FIELD**  
**MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION**  
**WHERE THE GAME BEGINS**

Local Chapters

Professionals in the area





The  
INDIANS

ALL STRIKE OUT  
WESTERN  
SOUTH  
Base of the  
HITTING INDIANS







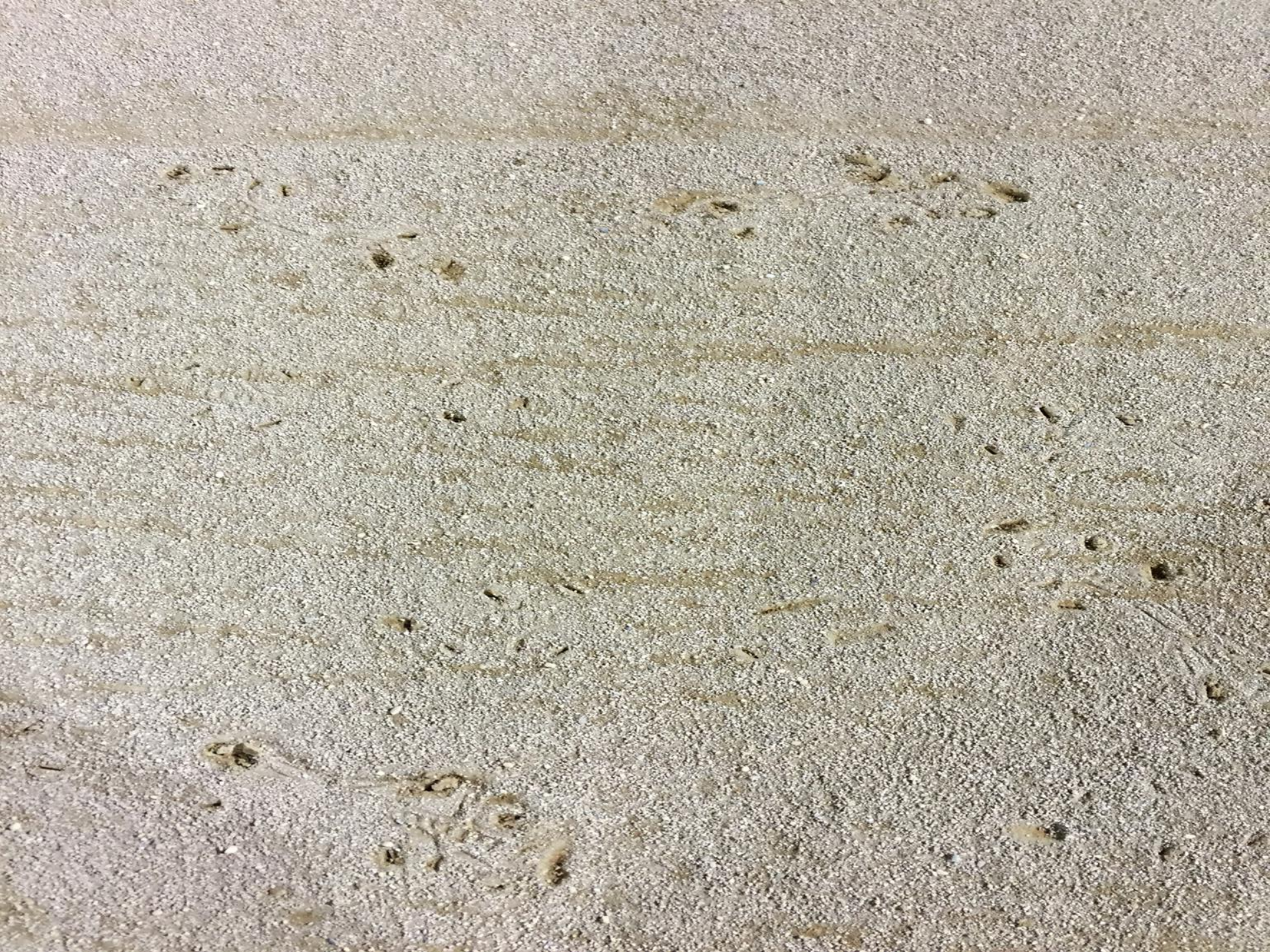


CENTRAL BASEBALL

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1300



















**IMPORTANT:**

**MOISTURE  
MANAGEMENT**

**CONDITIONERS**



**QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?**



# Contact Information

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