

BALLFIELD MAINTENANCE DO'S & DON'TS

In Case of Rain

Do not sweep puddles onto the grass; muddy water will leave a thin layer of clay on the grass, adding to the "lip" where the turf meets the clay. The lips retain water on the clay surface, causing greater puddling problems in the future.

Do bale the muddy water, removing it from the playing field.

Do use pails &/or buckets to bale the water.

Do empty pails or buckets off the field.

Do not empty pails or buckets onto grass; doing so could cause lip build-up by depositing soil on the grass.

Do not remove mud from the field, doing so would leave deeper holes for water to drain into, making conditions worse on rainy days.

Do re-use this muddy material by mixing with drier clay.

The best method of baling is to:

1. Dig a small hole in the deepest part of the puddle. Leave the excavated mud nearby, to be used to fill the hole later.
2. Start baling the muddy water, a scoop made out of a plastic gallon jug works well (when cut to a functional shape).
3. Scoop the water into a 5 gallon bucket. Empty the bucket(s) near the edge of the field. Along the fence line is OK, but outside the field is preferable.
4. As the puddle gets smaller, the water should drain into the hole, making it easier to bale.
5. After all the water has been removed, the mud should be "roughed up" with an iron garden rake. The remaining clay material should be left rough, to allow the mud to air dry.
6. If "Turface" drying agent is available, it can be raked into the mud. Pour the Turface onto the mud and rake it into the mud so it absorbs moisture. The Turface may become saturated, at that point either add more or leave rough & allow to air dry.
7. After the clay has begun to dry, it can be raked in order to accelerate drying.
8. The mud which was excavated in Step 1 can be added now. Incorporate into the drying material by raking back & forth.
9. Drier clay from the area immediately surrounding the puddle can be raked into the area, to further dry the wet material & to help re-grade the area.
10. After re-grading has been completed the field should be playable.

Tarps

1. If available, tarps should be placed appropriately when field use is completed. Even if rain is not forecast, irrigation may cause puddling problems. Thus, use tarps where they are provided.
2. Do not leave tarps on turf at any time.