

Softball Field Setup Guide

This step-by-step guide explains how to set up a softball field, complete with visuals and instructions for each stage.

Taking the Cart Out

- Using the code unlock the gate, roll it back
- Using the code, unlock the shed.
- Place the ramps down.
- The grey paint should line up

*If the key is in the “on” position, the cart will try to start itself when you press on the accelerator.



Best Practices for driving the cart.

To start, turn the key in the ignition then pull and hold the choke located behind the driver’s left knee until you begin to hear the engine start. Only use this help start the engine.

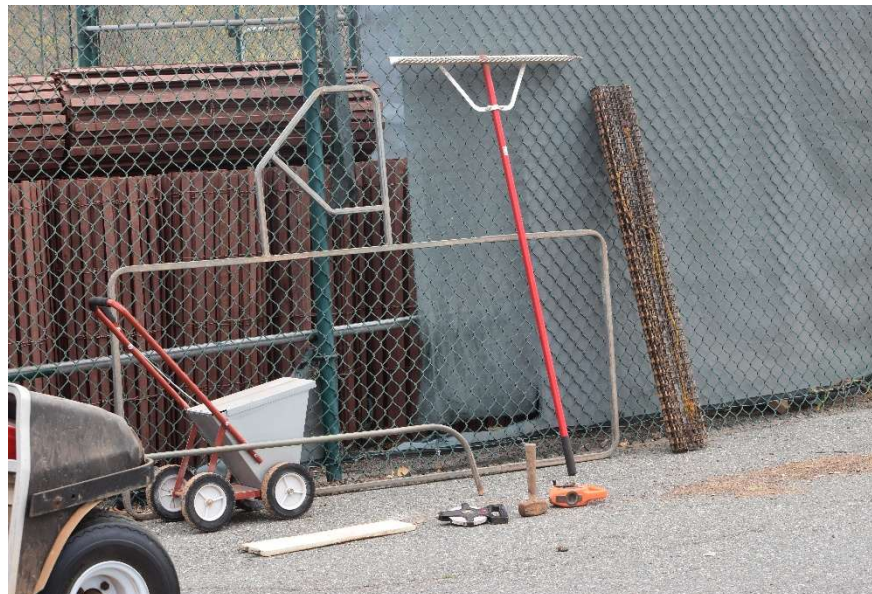
- Use the Choke sparingly, once engine begins to turn over, you may release the choke. (picture 2)
- Please note there is a little bit of a drivetrain concern with the cart so as you are accelerating whether forward or reverse. It may “buck” or “jump” into gear.



Tools needed before heading to the field

- Drag Screen
- Double play rake
- Pitching circle tool
- Measuring tape and Foul Line tool (orange)
- Batter’s box stencil
- Chalker
- Hammer
- Pitchers Rubber

*Place the ramps in the container and close it.



Starting on the Fields

Raking the bases

- It's difficult to drag around the bases so it's a best practice to rake around them using the double play rake.
- Be sure to rake pulling away from the bases as dirt tends to pile up around the bases.

Raking Second Base

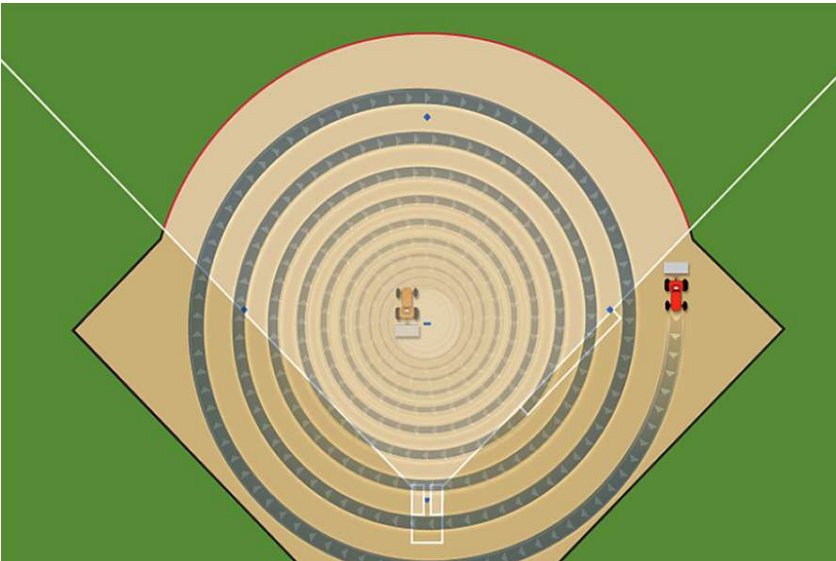


Dragging the Fields

- Attach the drag screen to the tow hitch.
- Make sure the lip and bolts are facing up ^.
- Drag in a spiral direction (clockwise or counter clockwise, doesn't matter). From the outside to the inside, this way we do not lose valuable field conditioner by spreading it out into the fields or turf.
- Give yourself about a foot of space from any grass, turf or bases to not damage any material.

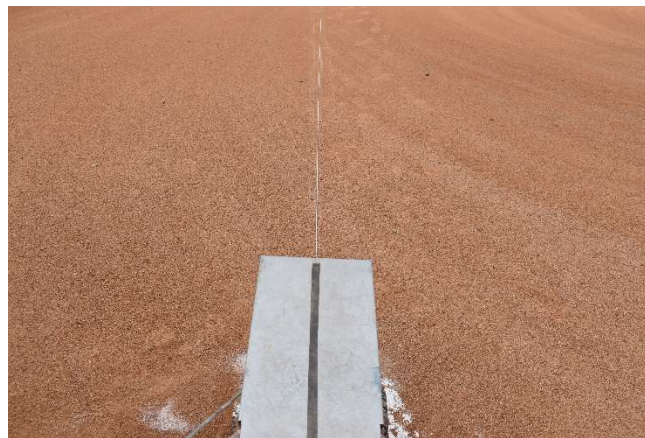


Dragging the field



The Batter's box

- Line the stencil with home plate.
- Then step on the stencil to help create a guide for the Chalker.
- Use the chalker to chalk out the lines. (Only use the 2" setting)
- Complete on both sides
- There is a black line on the chalker, use this as a guide to where the chalk will drop.



The Foul Lines

- Gently hammer a nail in the clay right behind the point of home plate.
- Using the foul line tool, place the metal circle around the nail and head to the outfield.
- The 3rd base foul line should line up with the outside of the base.
- The 1st base foul line should line up on the outside of the first base, but inside of the extra base (right in between them)
- When chalking make sure you have enough chalk and only use the 2" setting.
- Keep the nail in the clay at the end of this step, as it will be used to measure the pitching rubber.



Pitching Rubber

- From the nail at the point of home plate use the measuring tape and measure the proper to the front of the pitching rubber. It's a best practice to make in the clay where you will be placing the pitching rubber.
- Make sure the pitching rubber is lined up with home plate
- Nail it in (nails are normally in a bucket in the back of the cart)

Proper Distances

- 6U/8U - 30 Feet
- 10U – 35 Feet
- 12U – 40 Feet
- 14U – 43 Feet

*Please note, if there were games before your game, you may need to adjust the distance and pitching circles.

Best practices are using a broom to blend in the old chalk, remeasure to move the pitching rubber, and redo the circle.



Measuring Pitching



Pitching Circle

- Place the pitching circle tool in the middle of the pitching rubber.
- It's a best practice to pull the pitching circle tool.
- There should be a template carved out, use this to chalk the pitching circle.

Outlining Pitching Circle



Chalking Pitching Circle



Batter's circle and Coaches Box

- Around the middle of each dugout, about a foot away from the fence. Chalk about a 2 ½ - 3 foot in diameter circle. This is for the girls to warm up their swing when they're "on deck."
- About 2 ½ feet outside of 1st and 3rd simply chalk out a [also known as the coach's box.



Putting the Cart Away

- Place the ramps back in their positions
- Slowly drive the cart straight into the container (make sure to turn off the key so the battery does not die).

Closing and locking the container

- Start with the left door
- It's a best practice to start with the **outside** lever first. You'll see there a little hooks that grab and lock as you turn them to properly close the container
- Do the same with the right door, lock and ensure the combo is moved so it's not left unlocked.



Final Notes

- Double-check all equipment before leaving.
- Report any damaged tools or issues to the field manager or Coaches immediately.
- Always follow safety procedures during setup and teardown.
- Thank you for helping set up the fields, it's for the girls 😊