



# Majors Field Prep Guide

**Equipment:** Equipment is stored in the storage bins on the outside of the backstop. Team managers have the code to open the lockbox that contains the key to open the padlock on the storage box as well as unlock the large items chained to the fence. For the **Majors division**, you will find at each FCLL diamond:

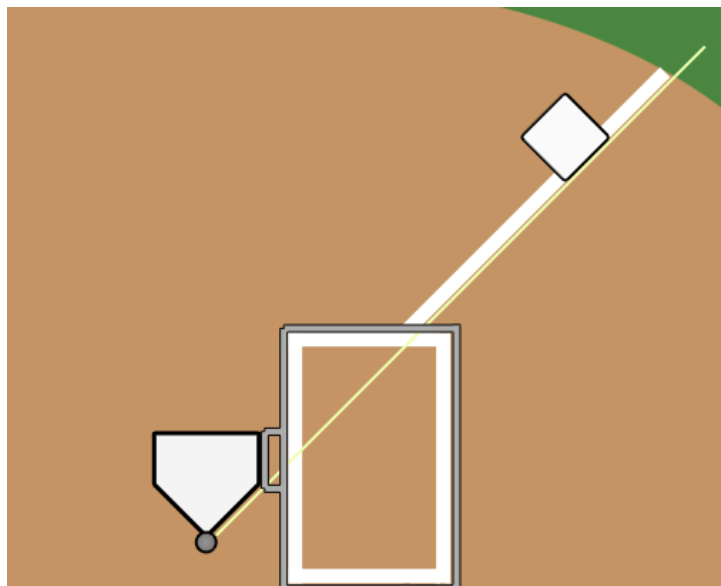
- 3 Safety Bases
- Digout Tool
- Large landscape rake
- Field Drag
- Hammer
- String Line
- Batter's Box Template
- Chalk Liner
- Chalk

## Before the Game: Home Team Field Prep

- Walk the field and remove any debris. Ensure there is no garbage, branches, large rocks, or stones on the infield skin or outfield grass.
- Drag the mound and plate tarps and carefully place outside the fence so that they are not in play.
- Using the large landscape rake, level any low or high spots on the infield skin particularly around the bases and home plate area. Rake shale from behind each base towards the center of the diamond.
- For any areas of standing water, remove as much as possible with the large landscape rake and rake dry shale over any remaining wet areas.
- The Bow River and Cranston diamonds have a Gator for grooming the fields in the FCLL sheds. Please ensure you are familiar with the operation of the Gator before using it. Lower the rear screen and drag the infield skin in overlapping runs. Stay at least 2 feet from the outfield edge to keep shale from building up a mound at the grass edge. Go slowly around the mound and avoid dragging over the in-ground base mounts and plate.
  - For all other Majors fields: Using the field drag, drag the infield skin in overlapping runs. Stay at least 2 feet from the outfield edge to keep shale from building up a mound at the grass edge.
- Remove the base anchor plugs and place them in the storage bin.
- Use the digout tool to pull any shale out of the base anchors so that the base can be placed, and it is level with the infield skin.
- If the diamond has a portable toilet, unlock the portable toilet with the key on the lanyard and ensure the key is returned to the storage bin.

## Chalking the Foul Lines

- Drive the nail at the end of the string line into the ground at the apex of the plate.
- Unwind the string line down the first base line and 5 feet onto the grass.
- Line the stringline up the first base side of the plate and with foul side edge of 1<sup>st</sup> base.
- Stretch the string line taut and move the base aside.
- Lay the batter's box template and line 'handle' along the right side of the plate.
- Using a spike or the digout tool, score a line around the **inside** of the batter's box template and move the template aside.
- Roll the chalk liner to the scored line of the batter's box and set the chalk liner to **setting 4** for a 4" foul line.
- Chalk all four sides of the batter's box **inside** the scored line.
- Starting at the top of the batter's box, roll the chalk liner slowly down the string line ensuring the chalk is being laid to the left (fair territory) of the string line to the grass.
- Place first base in its anchor. The right edge of the base should line up with the right edge of the foul line.
- Move the string line to the third base side of the plate and with the foul edge of 3<sup>rd</sup> base.
- Lay the batter's box template and line 'handle' along the left side of the plate.
- Repeat the steps above making sure to chalk the right side of the string line and place third base in fair territory.



## After the Game: Visiting Team Field Take Down

- Both teams are responsible for ensuring their dugout/bench is clean of garbage and gear.
- Lock the portable toilet.
- Lay the landscape rake behind the storage bin and lock it to the backstop with the chain.
- Place the portable toilet key, pitching machine, field prep equipment, and bases in the storage bin.
- Ensure the key is in the lock box, scramble the combination tumblers, and close the cover.
- Lock the storage bin with the padlock.
- Ensure the Gator is back in the shed and off, the shed is locked, and the key is in the lock box. Scramble the combination tumblers and close the cover.

Let's aim to leave the field each night with it in better shape than when we arrived!

For any questions, concerns, or issues with diamonds or equipment, please email: [diamonds@fcll.ca](mailto:diamonds@fcll.ca)