

NWA FIELD MARKING - 2014

for Pee Wee, Rookie & Junior Divisions

The “RIGHT WAY” to mark a field is the method what works for YOU to get the chalk down QUICKLY and CORRECTLY. Here’s one way to do it. [NOTE: With this method, when you bring out the chalk dispenser from the shed... leave it near 3rd base]

1. FIND the “Home Plate Intersection Point” by: Clip END of tape to either BACK CORNER of Home Plate. Use WHITE side of tape to measure 18” (1’-6”) to BACK-EDGE-CENTER of Home Plate. Pivot END of tape behind plate to form “T”. Secure TAPE with pin. [NOTE: Beginners might want to SCORE some quick “stop marks” 5 ft from tape pin along both Foul Lines to remind where you’ll STOP chalking Foul Line]
2. Extend tape along 3rd base foul line. Set 3rd Base.
[OUTFIELD CORNER of base should be 48 ft. - 4.5 in. from tape pin].
3. With tape extended along 3rd Base to outfield paint line, CHALK 3rd Base foul line ... beginning in 3rd Base outfield and chalking toward Home Plate. [STOP @ 5 ft mark]. Chalk INFIELD SIDE of tape.
4. From 3rd, shorten tape to 23 ft and SCRIBE “9-Foot Line” arc (from 3rd Base line toward 1st).
[NOTE: Don’t chalk 9-ft Line yet. Your other measurements might mess up your line]
5. Extend tape along 1st Base foul line. Set 1st base
[OUTFIELD CENTER-EDGE OF BASE (between white & orange) should be 48 ft. - 4.5 in. from tape pin].
6. With tape extended over 1st Base to outfield paint line, CHALK 1st Base foul line ... beginning at 5 ft mark by Home Plate and chalking to outfield paint line. Chalk INFIELD SIDE of tape.
7. “BASE PATH”: Along 1st Base Foul Line, use rake head to measure 3 ft from 9-Foot Line (Toward Home Plate). Lay rake head on ground. Stretch tape around rake head to a point approx. 10 ft. past 1st base. Make sure both ends of tape are 3 ft from (parallel to) the foul line. CHALK 1st Base “Base Path “.Chalk FOUL TERRITORY SIDE of tape. [QUICK METHOD: Forget the tape! Mark Base Path width with rake head at several points along 1st base foul line. Then simply “connect the dots” with your chalk]
8. Extend tape to toward 2nd Base. Set 2nd Base. Base is oriented with corner pointing to Home Plate.
[CENTER OF BASE should be 68 ft. - 5 in. from tape pin].
9. With tape stretched across center of 2nd Base, center Pitchers Box template on tape. [Front edge of template 32 feet from tape pin]. Step on outside edges to MARK outline. Remove template. Use INTERIOR BAR MARK as back edge of P/R/J Pitchers Box! CHALK outside rectangle lines.
[NOTE: You’re now done with the tape and tape pin]
10. Use 3’ rake head to MARK Home Plate foul area (three lines in front of Home Plate).
 - **2 outside rake marks** - 3 ft from BACK CORNERS of Home Plate [matches “5 foot mark” made when marking foul lines.
 - **2 inside rake marks** - 3 ft from FRONT CORNERS of Home Plate[HINT: You’re basically building a 3-sided box in front on home plate ... 3 foot from FRONT EDGE of plate]
11. Set compass to MIDDLE HOLE. From BACK CORNERS of Home Plate, make two intersecting arcs to find CENTER of circle. Place one foot of compass at intersecting point and SCRIBE Kicking Circle. CHALK outside scribed circle.
12. Use 3’ rake head to measure Coaches Boxes and On-Deck Circles.
13. CHALK ALL REMAINING MARKS (9-Foot Line, Pitcher’s Box, Home Plate Foul Area, Kicker’s Circle, Coaches Boxes, On-Deck Circles).

Things to Remember

• IMPORTANT MEASUREMENTS:

- 48 ft. - 4.5 in. = from pin to OUTFIELD EDGE of 1st & 3rd Bases
- 68 ft. - 5 in. = from pin to MIDDLE of 2nd Base
- 23 ft = from pin to 9-Foot Line
- 32 ft = from pin to FRON EDGE of Pitchers Box
- 4' x 7' = dimensions of Pitcher's Box (small template)
- 5 ft. = from pin to CORNERS of Home Plate foul area (where Foul Line chalk stops)
- 8 ft = diameter of Kicker's Circle
- 6 ft = from OUTFIELD EDGE of 1st & 3rd Bases to OUTFIELD EDGE of Coaches Box
- 3' x 6' = Coaches Boxes
- 3 ft = Diameter of On Deck Circle

• WHAT YOU'LL NEED: Pull the following items from the shed ...

- Set of 3 Bases
- 100' Tape
- Tape pin (metal stake or screwdriver)
- Hammer (needed to set tape pin when field is dry and hard)
- Thin trowel (for cleaning out base post shafts)
- Pitcher's Box template (There's two sizes of white PVC frames. Use the smaller one)
- Compass (for marking Kicker's Box ... use middle hole)
- Rolling Chalk Dispenser (don't forget to fill it with chalk from large trash can)

• WHERE TO CHALK:

- FOUL LINES – chalk goes INSIDE (infield side) your measuring tape
- SHAPES (circles or rectangles) - chalk goes OUTSIDE your scribed lines
- 9-FOOT LINE" - chalk goes to HOME PLATE side of your scribed line
- BASE PATH (1st Base) – chalk goes on FOUL side of measuring tape

• **START ON TIME:** Until you get the hang of this, begin pulling tools from shed AT LEAST 30 MINUTES prior to the posted game start time. If you're late, the game can't start.

• **EXISTING MARKS:** The field may not be marked correctly for your Kickball division when you arrive. Always check existing measurements! Before marking, rake out any rough spots on the infield as well as any questionable chalk lines.

• **FILL YOUR CHALKER:** Fill your chalker almost to the brim. Few things are more annoying than having to return to the shed for more chalk. [NOTE: shouldn't be necessary to chalk lines a second or third time. You'll soon perfect a "chalking pace" that makes a good line the first time]

• **WHO DOES WHAT:** If you have two people, one can mark while the other chalks. With one person, you might want to chalk foul lines and 1st Base Path ... then do ALL remaining MARKING ... then do ALL remaining CHALKING at one time.

• **RETURN EQUIPMENT:** Please return all equipment to it's proper place in the shed. Not only do we want to keep Players and Parents from hurting themselves on stray equipment, but it's a pretty good bet someone from another field is looking for the tools to mark their field.

• **KEEP IN YOUR CAR:** A few things that can get damp red clay on them – shoes, an old towel and some water to clean yourself up (there's also water faucets at each field). Some folks like knee pads and gloves.

Summary

• FOUL LINES:

- Set base first. Look for strings. Use tape to verify you're not using Senior/Teen base pins
- From tape pin, tape should be stretched to outfield grass ... resting snugly against OUTSIDE edge of base ... extending to OUTSIDE edge of outfield paint mark.

• 1st BASE "BASE PATH"

- Begins 3 ft toward Home Plate from 9 ft line. Stops 10 ft past outfield edge of 1st Base
- Runs parallel to 1st base Foul Line ... 3 feet toward 1st Base dugout.
- Chalk FOUL TERRITORY SIDE of tape (or rake points)

• PITCHER'S BOX

- 4' x 7' template (larger template is for upper divisions)
- Place front edge of template 32 ft from tape pin.
- Align front and back "center marks" on tape
- Step on template frame to create marks
- Chalk OUTSIDE resulting rectangle (do not chalk center support line)

• HOME PLATE FOUL AREA

- **2 outside rake-head marks** - 3 ft from BACK CORNERS of Home Plate [matches "5 foot mark" made when marking foul lines.

[HINT: If measured correctly, rake head from BACK CORNER of plate should meet where you STOPPED chalking foul lines]

- **2 inside rake-head marks** - 3 ft straight out from FRONT CORNERS of Home Plate
[HINT: You're basically building a 3-sided shape (not an arc) in front on home plate (3 foot in front of FRONT EDGE of Home Plate).

• KICKER'S CIRCLE

- compass set to middle hole. [outside hole is for upper divisions]
- mark center point of circle from BACK CORNERS of Home Plate

• COACHES BOXES

- 3 ft x 6 ft rectangle (use rake for quick marking)
- "Top" of box (3 ft outfield edge) - even with outfield side of 1st or 3rd base
- "Side" of box (6 foot infield edge) - 6 foot outside 1st or 3rd base foul lines

• ON-DECK CIRCLES

- 3 ft diameter circles. (can mark w/ rake head spun in circle)
- Find first fence pole (toward Home Plate) from each dugout entrance.
- Circle begins 3' out from fence pole toward infield. (edge of circle one "rake head" from pole)

NWA Field Names

