



NBGSL Field Preparation Guide

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance on how to prepare the softball fields for games.

1. Ready the Field:
 - a. Use the rake to smooth out the batter's box and pitching circle.
 - b. Use the rake to erase old base chalk lines, pitching circle and batter's box if not reusable.
2. Set Pitchers Plate:
 - a. Use the string marked with 8U, 10U, 12U, 14U tape marks on it to set the pitcher's plate to the correct distance.
 - b. The pitching distance is measured from the back point of home plate (screw or have someone hold the eye hook) then use the tape mark for the age division to set the front edge of the pitcher's plate.
 - c. Check alignment with second and home and hammer in the nails. See Figure 2 field diagram below for more details.
 - d. Pitching distances for reference are as follows:
 - i. 8U - 30 ft
 - ii. 10U - 35 ft
 - iii. 12U - 40 ft
 - iv. 14U - 43 ft
3. Chalk the Batter's Box:
 - a. If the chalking machine is low on chalk, fill it from a provided chalk bag.
 - b. Place the handle of the frame parallel to and touching the straight side of the plate with the shorter side of the frame marked "front" facing towards the pitcher's plate.
 - c. Step on it to make an indentation in the field. Remove the frame and chalk the box.
 - d. Now repeat for the other side.
 - e. See Figure 1 below for more batter's box specifics.
4. Chalk the Field:
 - a. Use the reel of string to provide a straight line for the base paths. Use a nail or have someone hold the string at the back point of home plate.
 - b. 1st Base Path:
 - i. Use the string to create a straight line from the back point of home plate then right in the middle of the orange and white part of first base and finishing by the grass. Now use the string as reference



and chalk from the corner of the batter's box, over first base and to the grass outfield.

- c. 3rd Base Path:
 - i. Use the string to create a straight line from the back corner of home plate, on the outside of third base and to the grass. Now again use the string as a reference and chalk from the corner of the batter's box, next to third base, and to the start of the outfield grass.
5. Chalk the Pitcher's Circle.
 - a. Use the string used to measure the pitching distance to draw a 8 ft circle around the pitcher's plate.
 - b. The string has a mark that at 8ft, have one person hold the tape in the center of the plate and the other use the hook point to draw a circle.
 - c. Now chalk that circle.
6. Clean up:
 - a. After preparing the field please put everything back in the field sheds.
 - b. After completion of the game make sure to put the pitcher's plate back in the shed as long as there is no game after yours.

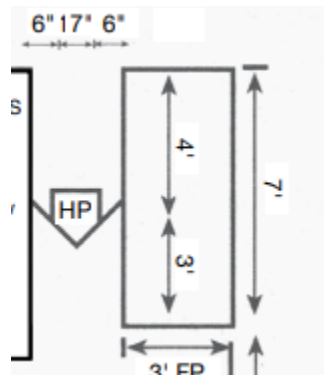


Figure 1: Batter's Box Dimensions



Please see the USA Softball Rule Book Rule 2, Section 3 for more full field details: [Link](#)

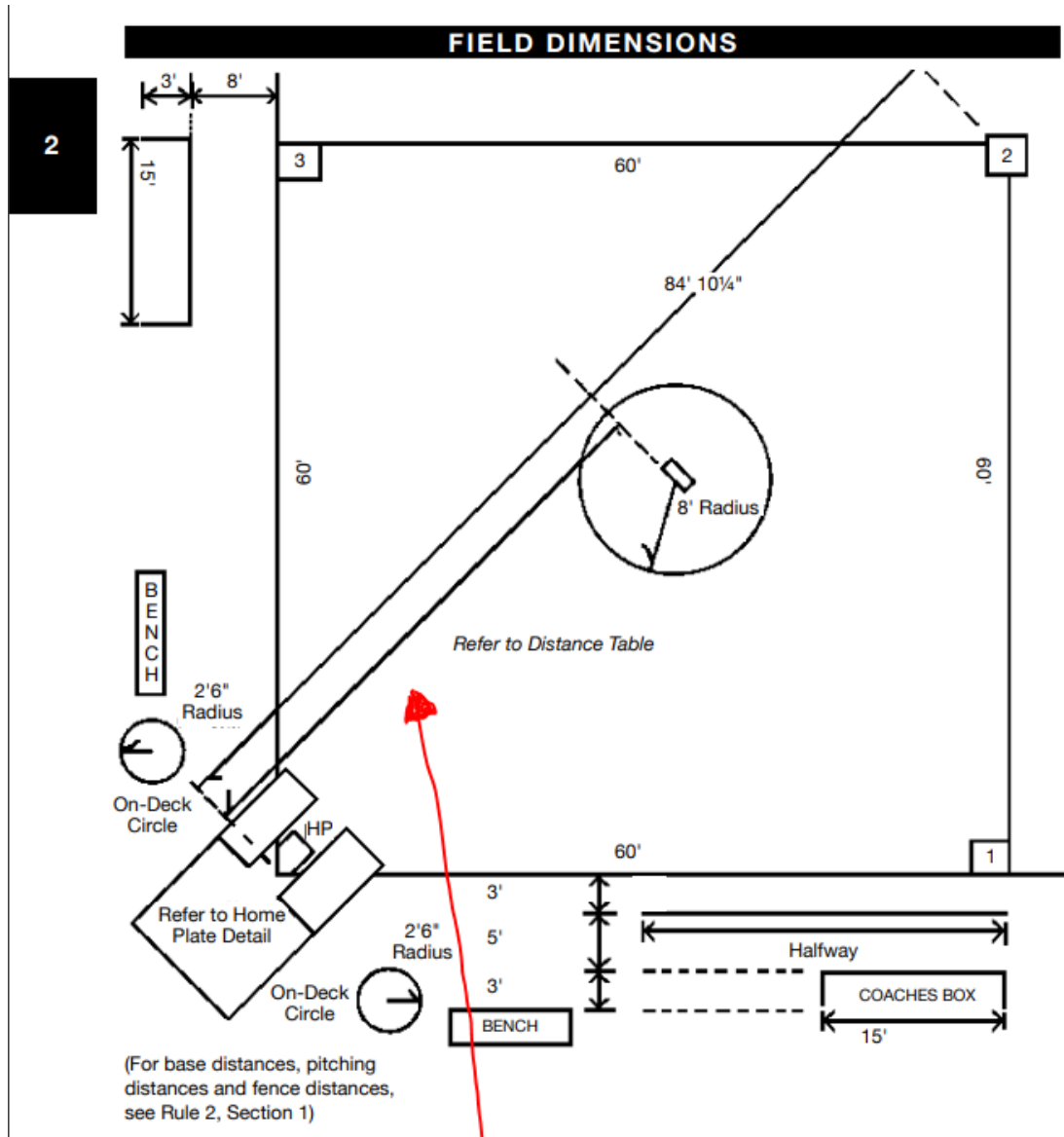


Figure 2: Field Measurements

Pitching distance is measured from the back point of home plate to the front edge of the pitcher's plate.