

## Field Safety Checklist

The following is a comprehensive safety checklist that should be reviewed as part of a routine field walk before any athletic contest, or team practice. Notes should be made of any necessary repairs, along with an intended date of completion.

*\*The checklist is noted in an order that would allow you to start your observation during your walk toward the field. From there, it is suggested that you begin at the pitcher's mound, walk to the home plate area, circle the bases and then walk along the outer edge of the infield dirt. You can then proceed into the outfield area — making sure to traverse both foul lines and navigate along the outfield fence. After completing the field walk, be sure to circle back through both dugout areas and complete the tour with a walk from the on-deck circle back to home plate.*

Safety Concern	Check When Completed	Note Specific Issues / Date of Repair
<b>Outside of the Playing Area</b>		
Verify that <b>floors, walkways, stairs</b> and other surfaces are in good condition.		
Locate the nearest <b>landline telephone</b> to the field and note its phone number. Post <b>emergency numbers</b> near the phone, and also within view of the stands.		
Check safety, construction and positioning of <b>seating, bleachers and spectator areas</b> . Make sure spectator areas are a safe distance from the field of play. Do not allow spectators to be on the playing field or to stand on the sidelines.		
<b>Light stanchions, fence posts and trees</b> that are near the field of play should be properly cushioned or protected, and always be designated as "out of play" areas. All "out of play" areas should be cushioned or fenced off or, at minimum, marked by paint or chalk lines.		
Inspect all <b>fencing</b> to make sure it is in good repair and free of protruding hazards or sharp edges.		

If the field is used for other sports, inspect for <b>fixtures or equipment</b> that may have been left by the previous user. IMPORTANT NOTE: If the field is used for soccer and portable goals are on the premises, NEVER allow players or others to play on, hang from or move the goalposts.		
Find out if the facility is equipped with <b>lightning detection equipment</b> . Determine where the nearest shelter is from the field in the event of serious weather or other emergency conditions. Note that small, open shelters typically found on playing fields or parks will <b>not</b> provide adequate protection in the event of lightning.		
Locate the nearest <b>medical facility</b> , whether on-site or off-site.		
Ensure that a copy of an <b>emergency plan</b> is posted and in an accessible location. Advise coaching staff / parent volunteers where this information can be found.		
Post a sign stating that attendees are <b>parking</b> at their own risk and that your team/league is not responsible for any damage to or theft from vehicles parked during your activities.		
Make sure <b>parking area</b> is far enough away from the field of play to minimize the potential for damage to vehicles.		
Establish a <b>Player Loading Zone</b> by placing temporary signs during practices and games to indicate where cars should stop to load and unload passengers.		
<b>Go Slow Zone</b> — In addition to the Player Loading Zone, help alert motorists to the fact that children are present by putting up temporary signs in the parking lot that say “Children at Play” or “Slow: Children”.		
Ensure that <b>access to the parking lot</b> and <b>access to the field</b> is not blocked by haphazard parking. Emergency vehicles must have quick, easy access to the facility or playing field in the event of an emergency.		

Infield Area		
<b>Pitcher's mound</b> is free of holes in front of rubber, and in landing area.		
The <b>pitcher's rubber</b> is level with the surrounding surface and is secured safely into the ground.		
The <b>pitcher's rubber</b> is free from unsafe wear or gouges.		
<b>Platform area</b> behind the rubber is large enough.		
There is no hazardous <b>soil buildup</b> (lip) between the edge of the pitcher's mound and a grass infield.		

The <b>surface of home plate</b> is level with the surrounding surface.		
The <b>surface of home plate</b> is clean and free from wear.		
The <b>batter's box</b> is level, and free of divots and holes.		
The <b>batter's box</b> is clearly marked with chalk for both right and left-handed hitters.		
The <b>batter</b> has a clear line of sight to the pitcher's mound, free of any glare or reflection.		
The <b>catchers area</b> is level and does not contain any holes or divots.		
<b>Skinned foul lines</b> are smooth and clearly marked.		
<b>Running paths and sliding zones</b> near bases should be level, and there should be no noticeable wear.		
There is no hazardous <b>soil buildup</b> (lip) along the edge of base paths where the soil meets the grass.		
The <b>first base covering</b> is free from rips or gouges.		
The <b>framework of first base</b> is firmly in place and free from damage.		
The <b>first base ground stake</b> is safely planted below the surface grade and firmly secured in concrete footing.		
<b>First base</b> sits properly with the ground elevation and does not detach from the surface when normal contact is made.		
The <b>second base covering</b> is free from rips or gouges.		
The <b>framework of second base</b> is firmly in place and free from damage.		
The <b>second base ground stake</b> is safely planted below the surface grade and firmly secured in concrete footing.		
<b>Second base</b> sits properly with the ground elevation and does not detach from the surface when normal contact is made.		
The <b>third base covering</b> is free from rips or gouges.		
The <b>framework of third base</b> is firmly in place and free from damage.		
The <b>third base ground stake</b> is safely planted below the surface grade and firmly secured in concrete footing.		
<b>Third base</b> sits properly with the ground elevation and does not detach from the surface when normal contact is made.		

The <b>skinned area</b> has been dragged and is level. Any low spots or holes have been sufficiently filled in.		
There is no hazardous <b>soil buildup</b> (lip) between the skinned area and the turf.		
Unsafe obstacles such as hard gravel and framing boards have been removed from the <b>on-deck area and the walkways</b> from dugouts to home plate.		
<b>Sprinkler heads, drainage grates, valve boxes</b> , etc. around the field do not protrude above the surface. Be sure there are no sharp edges. Any potential hazards are clearly marked or roped off.		
<b>Maintenance equipment</b> such as rakes, hoses, etc. have been removed from field.		
<b>Litter and unsafe debris</b> has been cleared from the field and player/spectator areas.		

Outfield Area		
There are <b>no noticeable bare spots</b> in turf that would leave hard soil exposed.		
Soil has drained properly — <b>surface is free of puddles</b> or sloshy spots that could make for dangerous footing.		
No <b>mounds or holes</b> have been caused by burrowing animals.		
The outfield grass is free from <b>grass clumps</b> or spots where turf has been dug up by cleats.		
Field has been <b>evenly mowed</b> .		
Permanent materials used to mark <b>foul lines</b> (i.e., white boards or fire hose) are level with the surface and do not pose any trip hazard.		
Any sticks, rocks, leaves, or other <b>debris has been removed</b> , allowing for safe running, and preventing bad hops from the ball.		
Any <b>lip between the infield dirt</b> and the outfield grass has been leveled off to allow the smooth roll of a ball into the outfield.		
<b>Foul poles</b> are properly aligned with the base paths, and are clearly marked. Poles are anchored to the fence, or in the ground behind the outfield fence.		
<b>Sprinkler heads, drainage grates, valve boxes</b> , etc. in the field do not protrude above the surface. Be sure there are no sharp edges. Any potential hazards are clearly marked or roped off.		

Miscellaneous		
<b>Fencing</b>		
<b>Fence posts</b> are firmly set in the ground.		
<b>Fence posts</b> are on the outside of the playing area fence.		
<b>Concrete footings</b> are in no way exposed above ground.		
<b>Fencing</b> is securely attached to the fence posts with proper ties.		
There are no gaps between the <b>bottom of the fence</b> and the surface.		
Fix, or clearly mark any <b>areas of the fencing</b> that are loose, sharp, protruding or unsafe.		
Top of the <b>chain link fence</b> is free from exposed wire ends. Any fence covering is secure and in good condition.		
<b>Gates open and close</b> properly and remain closed during games.		
There are no gaps in the <b>backstop</b> ; netting is in place as needed, and is free from holes or weak spots.		
There is a clear <b>warning track</b> that is free from any slip hazard. Be sure that no holes exist, and that the soil on the track is not hard and compacted.		
The <b>outfield wall</b> is either padded, or has been checked to ensure that there are no protrusions that could cause injury upon contact.		
<b>Signage / Warnings</b>		
There are <b>warning signs</b> posted informing players or spectators of rules or hazardous conditions.		
Areas that are hazardous or <b>under repair</b> have been blocked off or identified.		
<b>Lighting</b>		
The <b>lighting grid pattern</b> on the field is even and provides sufficient lighting for all areas of the field.		
<b>All bulbs</b> are properly working.		
<b>Lights are turned on</b> well in advance of dusk, allowing players to gradually adjust to the field lighting.		
Any <b>electrical wiring</b> is noted to be in good condition, and is properly covered.		
<b>Bleachers &amp; Dugouts</b>		
<b>Guard rails</b> are in place - there are no gaps on the top or side of the bleachers.		

The nuts and bolts on the <b>bleachers</b> are tight - none are missing.		
The plank or <b>railing end caps</b> are in place.		
<b>Wooden planks</b> are smooth and firmly attached.		
There are no hazardous protrusions or sharp edges on the <b>bleachers</b> .		
<b>Bench area</b> is kept clean of debris and litter. Equipment is properly stored and out of the way of foot traffic.		
<b>Bench</b> is safely anchored to ground. Planks are firmly secured and do not have any weak spots or sharp edges.		
During game, be sure that players are behind <b>dugout fence</b> to be out of the way of foul balls or thrown bats. Be sure that existing fence provides sufficient protection.		