



Concord Baseball Club Inc.

Established 1995 & Still Having Fun

Coaches and Managers Guide



Concord Baseball Club Inc - Coaches and Managers Guide

Dear Coach and Manager,

Thank you for taking on the role of Coach or Manager for your team, these are both very important roles necessary to ensure the smooth operation of your team during the season.

As the team Coach you are responsible for developing the skills of your players, helping them enjoy their sport and looking after their safety and wellbeing while they are in your care. This includes making sure the kids are in a safe environment, have equal opportunity and are free from harassment or abuse.

As the Team Manager, your role is primarily to be the organiser and communicator for the players, parents/carers and team officials. By doing this job effectively, the pressure is taken off the coaches who are there primarily to take care of the on-field parts of the game.

All coaches and managers must complete a working with children check which can be applied for via the Kids Guardian website link below:

<http://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/working-with-children/working-with-children-check> ,

By agreeing to Coach or Manage a Concord Baseball team you agree to abide by and uphold the RHBL Official Codes of Conduct which can be found on the RHBL website as well as in the Coaches and Managers resources on TeamStuff.

<https://www.rhbl.com.au/hawks-juniors/competition/competition-documents>

Coaches and managers are responsible for the operation of the team and all administrative duties at the game. Remember, you don't need to do it all yourself, use other parents/carers who are there and available to help. Most are quite willing helpers, but are a little reluctant to come forward if they are not sure of what is required.

This guide is divided into four parts:

Part 1 – The responsibilities of the coach and some general coaching tips.

Part 2 – The Responsibilities of the Team Manager.

Part 3 – Housekeeping.

Part 4 – Concord Club Contacts and Useful Website Links

Part 5 - Baseball Etiquette

I trust you will find your time as a coach or manager an enjoyable and rewarding experience and remember if you feel you need some help with any aspect of your role during the season, please do not hesitate to contact one of the Committee members.

Tony Solano

President,
Concord Baseball Club.



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Part 1 – The responsibilities of the coach and some general coaching tips.

Become Familiar With Your League.

It is important that you become familiar with your league rules, regulations, constitution, policies and structure. This helps you coach the team effectively by enabling you to teach the kids the rules of the game and the standards of behavior as well as helping them develop a positive culture towards their club and the League.

In order for you to effectively talk to umpires, fellow coaches, and league officials you must keep up to date with league rules, regulations, and policies.

You should always carry a copy of the latest rules in your coaches kit which you can download from the Ryde Hornsby Baseball League (RHBL) website

Reference: <https://www.rhbl.com.au/hawks-juniors/competition/competition-documents>

I don't support the idea of holding up the game while you trawl through the rules to clarify a point. You can always ask your manager or another parent to look up the relevant reference while allowing the game to proceed. The main aim of this is not about challenging the umpires decision, but to gain a better understanding of the rules. If you don't understand the rules well enough at the time an umpires decision is made you should not get someone to look up the rules just so you can come back at a later stage in the game and try to question that decision or prove the umpire wrong. Rather, you should use this as an opportunity to learn more about the game.

Remember, as a coach you are entitled to question an umpire's decision in relation to a rule of Baseball, but not their judgment call. However, if you are going to question an umpire's call, you should call "time" and approach the umpire in a polite manner to seek clarification. You should act in a professional manner at all times and not shout out to the umpire from across the Diamond or engage in heated debates with umpires, or any other officials including opposition players or coaches.

If after seeking clarification from the umpire regarding his or her interpretation on a rule of Baseball (not judgement calls) you may choose to lodge a protest however you will need to become familiar with the protocols for lodging a protest as outlined in your League Rules.

Communication & Organisation

The Concord Baseball Club uses a team management app called TeamStuff which has very useful functionality to help coaches and managers manage and communicate with their teams. You will receive an email invitation to join your team and the Coaches and Managers team.

Communication and organization are two of the most important skills a coach can have. Please utilise the TeamStuff app which has been set up for you which includes your team members' contact information and any other relevant information (such as medical conditions) of which you need to be aware.

You and your manager are the two primary points of contact with your team and their parents/caregivers. As the coach, you are responsible for communications regarding various aspects of the game, training drills, skills development, player injuries/illness and strategy while the manager will be responsible for communication with the team regarding administrative aspects of the season such as draws, training schedules, social events and providing information from the club or league.



Player Safety

As the coach, you are ultimately responsible for the safety of the players while they are in your care regardless of whether or not the player's parents are in attendance at the game or at training. You should also be familiar with your players' medical backgrounds and any unique precautions that may be necessary.

Before every game or training, the field should be assessed for safety and anywhere your players are meeting for a league function should be assessed for safety. Err on the side of caution when it comes to playing in weather conditions.

Safety first should be the rule of thumb. One of the most common hazards will be lightning during a storm and it can be very dangerous for kids holding metal bats and playing near metal fences when there is lightning present.

During a game the umpire will be responsible for stopping a game if the conditions are deemed unsafe however, regardless of the umpire's decision, if you feel it would be too dangerous to take the field then you should not do so even if this means your team forfeits the game.

No game is worth risking injury to your players.

You should also take care in extremely hot conditions and make sure your players keep well hydrated and that sunscreen is applied regularly.

Equipment

The club has provided you with a kit that includes most of the equipment needed for a game other than the players' personal equipment such as a glove, cleats or appropriate studded footwear as specified in the league rules.

Protective cups are required to be worn by all players from LL Zooka and onwards (including female players) during training and games however mouth guards are optional. For players wishing to purchase their own equipment such as bats, make sure you advise parents on the legal bats as specified in the league rules.

Confidence

Children (and parents) can quickly detect a lack of confidence so you need to have confidence in yourself and what you are trying to communicate. Be firm but fair with your players and "let your yes mean yes and your no mean no".

Establish that you are in charge and not the players or their parents. Establish control right from the start, the sooner you are able to command control the sooner your practices and games will run much smoother.

One of the best ways to gain confidence is to do some homework and learn a bit about coaching kids. Always plan your training sessions and show the kids that you are organised and in control.



Additional Coaches

One coach can run a team but will NOT be able to maximize what they can do with the team during games and especially training.

During games, it is always better to have an extra set of eyes in the dugout (we are dealing with children after all and they are going to misbehave from time to time). Additional coaches are an absolute necessity to run effective training. Use your manager and assistant coach or another designated parent to help but again you need to be organized and give clear instructions on what you expect them to do.

For example, if you have two additional coaches then you can simultaneously run infield drills, while the second coach runs outfield drills, and the third runs a bullpen session with a pitcher and a catcher. This not only maximises the use of the time set down for training but also stops kids from standing around, doing nothing and getting bored.

Lead By Example

It is imperative to lead by example and be an appropriate adult role model for your players. Your players are going to look up to you, or at the very least look to see how you react to situations to figure out what is acceptable behavior on your team. If you scream and shout at umpires, get thrown out of games, and are disrespectful to the opposition then your players will follow your lead. You need to be positive at all times, even when your team is losing.

Always focus on the positives and don't dwell on mistakes during the game but use them to identify areas to work on at training. Remember, most kids don't remember or care about the result of the game half an hour after the game is finished – it is usually parents that dwell on losses. However, the kids WILL remember the good hit or catch or simply the fact that they enjoyed a game with their team mates.

It is important that you lead by example and dress appropriately at all times. Instill in your players that they should take pride in their uniform and to wear the complete uniform during a game. The club has issued training shirts so encourage your team to wear these to training so that you look like a team.

Treatment of Players

All players on the team should be given the same amount of respect and attention regardless of skill level. For example, a skilled player shouldn't be given special treatment, and a less skilled player shouldn't get less batting practice.

As a coach your job is to develop all your players and bring out the best in them which means that at times you may have to spend more time with the less skilled players or to work on specific areas with players. However, players will have different personalities, and you may need to adjust your approaches to get your message across and adjust your approach to suit the age of the children that you are coaching.

Coaching a 7 year old requires a far different approach to coaching a 16 year old.

Dealing with Defeat As Well As Victory

We have already mentioned that kids usually handle defeat far better than parents, especially in the younger age groups. However, when helping your team cope with defeat, especially in the older age groups, the last thing you want to do is play the blame game such as blaming the umpire for poor calls or singling out players that might have made crucial errors.

Baseball is very much a team game and, from time to time, everyone that plays the game will make errors or simply have a bad day. As mentioned earlier, most of the very young players don't remember or care about the result soon after the game. For the older age groups you should talk about the positives that came out of the game and the areas in which you need to improve. Most experienced players know what went well and what didn't and don't need to be told about errors. Even after a win you should always talk about what you did well and where you need to improve. Above all, you should always show good sportsmanship and respect towards your opposition and your team mates regardless of the result.



Addressing Physical and Mental Errors

Physical and mental errors are two completely different types of error and should be addressed accordingly.

A physical error is dropping a fly ball, booting a ground ball, or making a bad throw. After a physical error, it is important to encourage all players to support their team mates - as mentioned earlier, everyone that plays this game will make errors.

A mental error is missing or ignoring signals, throwing to the wrong base after you called the play out several times, or not hustling.

As a coach, you need to find the best way to keep your players focused, this might mean switching a player to a different position or making sure that all your players encourage and support their teammates with plenty of positive talk whether it be on the field or from the dugout.

Training

One of your most important tasks is to teach your players the skills they need to play the game. Players that can play the game well will usually enjoy the sport a lot more and return to your team each year. Not every player will have the same skill levels and if you can help them improve over the season you have done a wonderful job as a coach.

Training sessions should be no longer than 1 hour for U7's to U9's and no longer than 2 hours for U12's and up. Depending on the age group, you should save the last 15 to 30 minutes for something fun that the team wants to do like a mini practice game.

Ensure that if you wish to make use of our fantastic batting facility that you book online via the club website or contact Tony Solano.

You need to plan your training sessions ahead of time, so that you are not wasting valuable field time trying to figure out what to do next and you need to include some variety so that training does not become too routine or mundane. **Every training session and game must include an appropriate warm up.** There will be some fundamental elements that you will need to work on each week such as hitting, fielding, pitching & catching and you can add variety to these training by using different types of drills to practice these skills.

For example, for batting drills, you can do live batting, hitting off a Tee or using soft toss. Do not try to teach too many different skills in one practice, because there is only so much the young mind will retain especially in the very young age groups. You should gradually introduce the more advanced skills or strategies such as run downs as a means of adding variety to your session.

Game Day Routine

Organisation is important in everything you do as a coach and is especially important on game day. You should set up a game day routine so everyone in your team knows what to expect and what is expected from them.

For example, you should have an arrival time to give you plenty of time to organize the team and ensure a proper warm up.

You need to make sure you are aware of any player injuries and, in the older groups where players might be playing in other competitions such as reps, you need to know if players are subject to any player restrictions*. This information helps you plan your line up for the game.

You should aim for an arrival time that allows at least 30 minutes of preparation and warm up before the game for U7s and U8s and at least one hour for the older age groups. You should set your expectations that the game preparation time is an important part of game day and expect players to be ready.

Its great if your players want to socialise with their teammates before the game however this should be done before the warm up commences. You should make it clear that on game day you expect their full concentration from the time your warm up commences until after your team talk at the end of the game.



Player Restrictions

In the older age groups from the live ball age group and up, there are usually restrictions placed on players. These are aimed at preventing injury of players from overuse of their arm and are typically around limiting the number of pitches thrown by a pitcher or the number of innings played by a catcher in that position.

For players participating in other tournaments or competitions, or playing a number of games over short periods, these can significantly impact on how a player is used during a game and can be very complex.

Coaches need to familiarise themselves with player restrictions of the league as well as those currently in force through Baseball NSW and available on their website (usually called "Player Protection Policy").

Team line up

One of your most difficult challenges as a junior coach is deciding on your line up each week. Do you use a line up that will give you a better chance of winning the game or do you want to give players equal game time and a chance to play in different positions?

It is extremely unlikely you will ever have a team made up of players that all have equal ability that can play in any position. In many cases you may not even have a say in the selection of the team, so your task as a coach is to try to mould the team and balance what are often competing objectives.

Whatever you decide, you will almost certainly encounter criticism from time to time. If you structure your line up to win you may be criticized for not giving all players opportunity and if you go the other way, you may be criticized for sacrificing a win.

There is no simple answer other than to keep the following points in mind:

- (i) Unlike professional sports, where players are often paid very well for their services and a team's success is measured by results, this is junior amateur sport where players pay for the opportunity to play and all players in the team are entitled to be treated equally. Team results will generally only form one measure of success and success is usually measured by a range of other factors including the level of enjoyment of the players, the amount of individual and team development and whether the players remain in the sport over time.
- (ii) Notwithstanding the above, the level of importance placed on achieving competition results in junior amateur sport will vary considerably depending on the age group and type of competition. In the younger age groups from U7s to about U11s, priority should always be given to player enjoyment and ensuring players have equal opportunity, the chance to play different positions and to develop their skills as much as possible.

From about the U10s age group we might start helping kids specialise in different positions to a limited extent and at the LL Senior Division 1 (U16 Div1) which is considered our premier competition we will start seeing players specialising in just two or three positions.

- (iii) Setting expectations and communications is also important.

For example, at club level, there is an expectation that players will be given equal opportunity and a fair level of game time.

The same doesn't always apply to representative teams where there is a greater focus on winning and where players are generally selected to play in one or two positions following a rigorous selection process. Quite often in representative teams the amount of game time and the level of opportunity to play in different positions is driven by what is best for the team rather than the individual preferences of the player.

These expectations, however, are usually set at the start of the selection process.



Team line up continued.....

(iv) Understand your players and what is important to them.

Even at the higher levels of competition, we should always give players the opportunity to try something new.

One way to do this is to give players the opportunity to try a new position at training and, when they have demonstrated a level of competence in that position, let them try that in a game. Conversely some players will be reluctant to play in positions outside their comfort zone and it is best not to push them too hard to play in those positions until they feel they are ready.

Quite often in junior sport, team results are of more importance to parents or coaches than to players.

While we all play to win, remember that playing and participating is often more important for the kids.

Have Fun!

The most important tip is always keep in consideration that you are coaching youth and allow them to have fun. Create a fun environment for your team.



Part 2 – The Responsibilities of the Team Manager.

General

The manager is the point of contact between the club, the parents/carers and players, and the coaches.

You should provide information in several different forms to make sure everyone is getting the message. Give your players information verbally and via the TeamStuff app. Of course you can also contact families individually by email, text or phone as required.

Don't assume a young child will be responsible with the important information you have just given them.

Lastly, do not "sit on information". Make sure you are distributing information as quickly as possible, because the parents will get annoyed with late information.

For example, a parent that hears about every event, practice, or game from parents on other teams two days before you contact them is a big turn off. It's a busy world and parents need times and dates **A.S.A.P!**

As noted above, the Concord Baseball Club uses the team management app called TeamStuff which will be set up for you with team lists, training and game schedules, volunteer duties and relevant documents.

The app has some great functionality to help coaches and managers manage and communicate with their teams.

If you have any problems accessing these features or need help using the app contact the Club Secretary.

Team List

Maintain an up-to-date team list in TeamStuff for the players, parents/carers, coaches, and scorer to access. Your families are responsible for keeping their details up to date in the app and can add as many contacts as they wish to their child's profile. Encourage your families to provide as much information as they are comfortable with.

And don't forget to include each player's game shirt number ... it helps to identify players on the field.

Results Sheets and Important Documents

Managers and coaches will be required to review and or complete various official forms including but not limited to Results Sheets, Pitch Count Sheets, Rules Guides and Injury Reports

These documents can be found in the Coaches and Managers resources in Team Stuff as well as on the RHBL website - <https://www.rhbl.com.au/hawks-juniors/competition/competition-documents>

Results Reporting

It is extremely important that the club's Results Coordinator provides RHBL match results for all competitive grades by Sunday evening each week. Fines apply if no results are submitted or if submitted late. Each manager is to provide Concord's Results Coordinator details of match results as follows:

(i) **For Home Games**, including any home game played at an away venue, ensure that the completed Results Sheet for home games is photographed and emailed to baseballresults@itdriven.com.au and is then returned to the canteen. These will be collated each Saturday afternoon by the Results Coordinator and sent to RHBL.

(ii) **For Away Games** Please update the score against your game in TeamStuff OR text result to Results Coordinator on 0413 728 860.

Ensure text results are formatted as follows:

"Concord Team Name", "Score" Vs "Opposition Team Name", "Score"

Eg: Concord JD1, 5 Vs Stealers JD1, 3

Please also advise Results Coordinator by text if an away game is washed out, cancelled or forfeited.



Scorer and Umpire

Make sure you have a scorer for each game.

Important Note – Umpires and Scorers

All teams are required to have at least one scorer (two is recommended to cover absences) and you should find parents/carers in your team to take on these roles. Courses and training can be provided during the season.

Concord Baseball Club employ our “Junior Blues” to umpire all Junior Games. Junior Blues give up their part time jobs and have travel expenses to umpire your game so they are paid at a rate of \$20 per T-Ball game, \$30 for Zooka Games and \$40 for live Ball games. The cost of Junior Blues is covered by your registration fee and umpires are automatically rostered to every home game (ie the Home team).

Please remember that many of our Junior Blues are still learning and some are as young as 11 or 12. Treat them with kindness, support and respect.

Disrespect or abuse towards umpires will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

For more information on umpiring, please see the Comets Website.

Team Schedule

Ensure that you check the latest versions of the team draws on-line and advise your team of any changes as soon as possible. (Note: The draw does sometimes change during the season, particularly during the first few weeks and there may be team re-grades). Remind people at training, and/or via a TeamStuff email during the week of where the next game is to be held. The draws can be found on the RHBL website at:

Reference: <http://www.rhbl.com.au/hawks-baseball/junior-hawks/draws>

Players

Ensure all players have the correct uniform and wear it to each game.

Advise players/parents, coaches, scorer and umpire of any late changes to the game or training session - eg. Cancellations due to wet weather.

This often has to be followed up early on the morning of a game or during the day that training is scheduled, and often after school time. People should be encouraged to contact you if they are in doubt as to whether a training session or game is going to be on or off. (Please note that as a general rule if you don't hear that a game has been cancelled – be there ready to play.)

Player Absences

Request that players/parents keep you advised in advance of any planned absences through the season, and in instances where a player is not able to make the game at short notice (eg. due to illness).

Players should do this by setting their attendance in TeamStuff for training by Monday of each week and for games by Thursday each week.

If a player is unwell or unable to play on short notice request they call or text you directly and then update their attendance in TeamStuff

This will assist your coach in planning training sessions and to know who is playing each week especially if you are going to be short and need to arrange to borrow players from another team



Wet Weather

During the summer season Canada Bay Council usually allows some sporting clubs to make a decision as to whether a field is playable and your team will generally be notified by an Official of Concord Baseball Club whether the home ground has been closed.

- (i) Major's Bay Ground closure will usually be advised via TeamStuff and or email at around 7:00-7:30am on game days. Please monitor communications on rainy mornings.
- (ii) It is the home team's (Manager's) responsibility to notify their opposing team if a home game has been cancelled due to wet weather.

Failure to notify will result in a forfeit for the home team.

A list of club contacts will be posted on the RHBL website.

- (iii) Each council area has their own process for notifying sporting teams when the fields have been closed due to wet weather.

The City of Canada Bay Council's Wet Weather Field Updates

<http://www.canadabay.nsw.gov.au/sports-facilities-and-fields-wet-weather-field-updates.html>

In the event of inclement weather, Council reserves the right to close any fields it deems necessary. Updates during wet periods are completed if required by:

- 2pm Monday–Thursday Council Website Wet Weather Hotline
- 3pm Friday Council Website, Wet Weather Hotline
- 8.30am Saturday-Sunday Wet Weather Hotline.

Weekly Match Report

You may wish to provide a weekly match report of your team's games through the season for our newsletter.

The kids really love reading about their games and you can get a parents/carers to take turns writing an article each week.

Completed match reports should be e-mailed to The Chronicle Editor at concord.baseball@gmail.com

BBQ Duty

On a few occasions during the season your team will be rostered to provide assistance with BBQ Duty and possibly Ground Duty. You will need to organise volunteers from your team for the days/times required. These will be rostered to coincide with your home games but will also cover your game time so one or two volunteers on BBQ duty may miss part of the game.

These duties can be allocated in TeamStuff via the duties function.

BBQ Duty involves getting volunteers to set up, work and pack up the BBQ usually from around 8:30 in the morning until the last game concludes (1:00pm at the latest), typically 2 parent / carer helpers for each hour slot.

Please note: *Where possible, try to get parents/carers other than coaches, managers scorers umpires etc, to volunteer for these roles ... so that those already involved with the team can keep their focus on the game – they are already doing their part for the team.*



Ground Duty

Your team is responsible to help maintain our fields and facilities in good order (see part 3 Housekeeping).

Organise and Encourage Parents

Organise and encourage parents / carers / friends from your team to attend social activities that are scheduled – try to fill a table of your team if you can.

End of Season

At the end of the season arrange to collect ALL shirts from the players – so that you can return them to the club ASAP following the conclusion of the season (try to do this before or at the Presentation Day).

Please note: playing shirts on loan remain the property of the club and should only be worn for the games. Players should be asked to keep a spare shirt in their kit to change into after the game).

Organise and encourage people to attend the Presentation Day.

During the Games

The manager is responsible for keeping the team organised and well behaved during the game and ensuring that all players do their job on and off the field including organising a “bat boy (or girl)”, ensuring bench players help warm up left and right field between innings and organising the “bull pen”.

Only players and team officials (including any designated parent assistants) and the bat boy/girl (if not a player) should be in the dugout during the game.

The manager should provide the scorer with an RHBL result sheet for each home game.

Batting Order

Keep track of batting lineup, and have next 2-3 batters kitted up and ready to go. Encourage the next batters to find space for warm up swings with the pitch.

Pitch Counter

Each pitcher is only allowed a set number of pitches and or a set number of innings (the numbers depend on the grade being played and if players have representative duties within the following few days). This task simply involves marking off each pitch on a tally sheet, and letting the coach know when a change of pitcher is due. (copies of the Pitch Count sheet are available in TeamStuff resources).

Player Injury or Incident

Be ready to handle any ‘incidents’ that may require your attention ... e.g. Emergency First Aid for injuries. We have a First Aid Kit that is kept in the Canteen.

A concussion assessment tool can also be found in TeamStuff Resources

Note: Any injury to a player must be recorded on the RHBL Match Report.

Get players, parents, and supporters to encourage team spirit and show their support for good play (by either team) in a positive manner. Strongly discourage negative behaviors – and ensure that all adhere to the codes of conduct that are in force.

Reference: <http://www.rhbl.com.au/hawks-baseball/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/Match-Report.pdf>



RHBL Rules Guide for Each Age Group

The RHBL rules guide is a summary of rules differences between age groups and can be found in TeamStuff Coaches and Managers Resources or via the RHBL website.

<https://www.rhbl.com.au/hawks-juniors/competition/competition-documents>



Part 3 – Housekeeping.

Like most junior sporting clubs we do not have paid ground keepers or cleaners so we need each team to assist by helping keep our ground and storage sheds tidy as follows:

Dugouts/Shelters

At the end of the game, please make sure that the team clears the Dugout or Shelters as soon as possible to make way for the next team first team. Teams should make sure they remove all rubbish from the Dugouts/Shelters and surrounding areas and place all rubbish in the bins provided at the Diamond or near the canteen.

If there is a temporary shelter set up for scorers and./or spectators, the last team using that Diamond should pack it away and return it to the storage shed on the right hand side of the canteen along with any chairs (chairs and shelters should not be stored in the shipping container as this tends to get cluttered).

Whist we are operating under Covid Safety protocols please ensure sanitizer is provided in each dugout (these are kept in the container for every dugout) and returned to the container. Benches are to be sanitized for the next game or before putting away.

Playing Fields

Game Day and Training - The first team playing / training on the Diamond is responsible to set up the field, this includes setting up the bases, setting up the cones and /or foul poles (if required), marking lines (if required), setting up zooka machines, and setting up benches on Diamonds 1 and 2.

Dolorite (dirt) areas around the bases, home plate and pitching mound, need to be raked prior to the game and immediately after the game or training from the outside towards the centre. When setting up the field you should bring two or three rakes from the shed and keep them behind the diamond so that teams can use these during the day.

The last team playing or training on the day, is responsible for raking Dolorite areas and packing away all ground equipment (bases, cones, foul poles, benches, wheel barrows, rakes and sanitiser) and returning them to their place in the correct storage sheds.

Please take any rubbish from the dugouts and use the rubbish bins provided near the canteen.

Important Note -

Raking the Diamonds - It is essential that the Dolorite areas on the baseball Diamonds is raked before and after every game and after every training session. Have two or three rakes available at the field for players or parents to help and it should only takes five minutes.

Raking the diamonds ensures they remain safe for our players and that pitching mounds and home plate areas retain their shape. Always rake towards the centre of the base areas, home plate or pitchers mound and never rake towards the grass. Doing so will form lips between the Dolorite and grass which become a trip hazard for players or cause balls to have uneven bounces or hops.

Always fill in any holes, especially on the pitchers mound, batting box and catcher's area. When raked properly the overnight sprinklers on the field or rain will settle the field in an even firm surface that is safe for our players.

Please refer to the following short video <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHWZeUDTDkE>.



Storage Sheds

The storage sheds on either side of the canteen, contain umpire gear, tables, chairs, zooka machines and some team kit bags. When using equipment from these sheds, please return the equipment to its correct place. Zooka machines need to be returned to their correct shed and placed on "charge" after use (including after training).

Umpire gear and other equipment should be returned to the shelves and not left on the shed floor. Plastic tables and chairs should be returned to the shed on the right hand side of the canteen. Please do not remove any equipment from another team's kit bag left in the shed. If you need additional equipment please contact Tony Solano.

Storage Container (shipping container)

The storage container contains our ground equipment (bases, cones, rakes, shovels, temporary nets, L Screen, benches and wheelbarrows) and our uniform shop is located at the back of the shed.

When returning equipment, please make sure that you return it to its correct place. The nets used for the temporary Diamonds are to be stored in their buckets along with the pegs and hammers and the poles to be stored in their canvas bags.

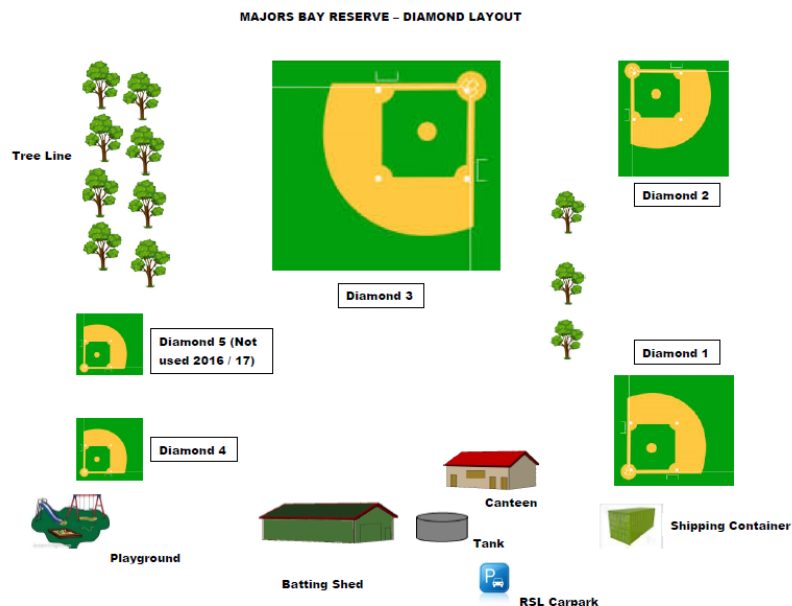
Wheelbarrows need to be emptied and left upright against the side of the container, benches and buckets containing nets are to be tucked under the shelves and bases placed on shelves or on the dedicated racks.

NOTE: Please make sure that the passageway to the uniform shop at the rear is left clear.

Locking up

If you are the last team to leave the ground on game days or training days, make sure that all equipment, chairs, shelters, and field equipment is packed away and that the storage sheds, shipping container, canteen and toilets are securely locked.

Majors Bay Reserve Diamond Layout





Part 4 – Concord Club Contacts and Useful Website Links

Concord Baseball Club Contact

		e-mail: concord.baseball@gmail.com
President	Tony Solano	0402 892 280
Vice President	Peter Lew	0404 048 642
Treasurer	Alison Massey	0412 438 114
Coaching Director	Daniel Arregui	0414 216 326
Umpire Coordinator	John Bottaro	0409 044 926
Managers Coordinator	Marcel Andrieux	0417 299 037
Scores SMS	Agathe Lucas	SMS: 0413 728 860 e-mail: baseballresults@itdriven.com.au

Website Links

Concord Comets website	www.concord.baseball.com.au
RHBL website	www.rhbl.com.au
Baseball NSW	www.nsw.baseball.com.au
City of Canada Bay Wet Weather Field Updates	http://www.canadabay.nsw.gov.au/sports-facilities-and-fields-wet-weather-field-updates.html
Baseball Australia	www.baseball.com.au
Pacific Coast Baseball League	www.pcbaseballleague.org
NSW State League Competition	www.sbl.baseball.com.au
Sydney Winter League	www.swbl.baseball.com.au
NSW Women's Baseball League	www.nswwbl.baseball.com.au



Part 5 - Baseball Etiquette

Note: *The following points are not rules as such but rather outline Baseball etiquette that describes how most clubs (including ours) like to play our sport. From time to time you may come across teams that don't observe the same standards however don't let this deter you from maintaining our standards.*

1. *Wear your club baseball uniform correctly. Take pride in your presentation and the image of the sport. The public learn about baseball from how you behave.*
2. *Do not 'steal bases' after gaining a 10 run lead. Do not expect to be held close to the base. Advance only a batted or played ball. Do not embarrass your fellow opponent.*
3. *Pitchers and catcher should always apologise to the opposition player on a hit pitch ball or collision.*
4. *Do not lift your team by criticising the opposition; always talk up positive remarks to your own players.*
5. *Do not acclaim failures, always praise good plays from all players.*
6. *Always respect and thank the opposition, umpires, scorers and spectators after a game.*
7. *Never use the infield of a baseball diamond to warm up before a game. Use it only for pre-game fielding drills.*
8. *When making player position and substitute changes always inform the Chief Umpire first, then the Scorers.*
9. *During a game, players and coaches should only engage in conversations with their own bench. Do not engage in discussions with the opposition or public.*
10. *Take 'cheap outs' out of your game. Respect a good return to a base on a pick off or a slide into a base. Do not keep holding on to the player.*
11. *If your opposition team is short of players, in the spirit of sportsmanship consider assisting by: a) providing your excess player into their line up, and b) providing outfielders when your team is at bat.*