

How to Chalk a Softball Field for Play

You will need (all items should be in the sheds):

LUHS Concession Stand Shed

- Bases (or on field)
- Rake (dugout)
- Chalker Cart
- Batter's Box metal template
- Chalk

LYS Concession Stand Cabinets

- 5 Gallon Pail
- String Line
- Tape Measure
- Hammer and Spikes
- Mound Circle Template

Pitcher's mound rubber + Hammer + Spikes (LYS Coaches Equipment Bag)

1. **Bases** - Place Bases at 60 Ft for all levels 8/10/12/14U (Should be Done)
2. **Rake** - Rake the area around the plate and smooth out any lumps rocks, or holes. You should do this along the base paths and pitchers circle as well.
3. **Properly Fill the Chalker**
 - Extra Chalk is available in the Lakeland Youth Softball Shed, Please mark the sheet hanging above the chalk bags when you use a bag of athletic field mark.
 - **Pro Tip:** Do this near field or shed but not in fair territory in case of spill
4. **Chalking the Foul Lines – You'll need: Hammer/Spikes/ String line/ Chalker**
 - Hammer spike at back tip of plate and lop string around the spike.
 - Run string to the outside of the outfield foul line and loop around a second spike.
 - i. This "should" land between the orange and white bases for the 1st base foul line
 - ii. This "should" be to the outside of the base down the 3rd base foul line
 - Using the string line, set-up the Chalker along the **INSIDE** of the string line. Mark the line from the outfield grass to the corner of the batters box nearest 1st or 3rd base (in either direction), making sure the line is on the inside of the string line (towards the pitchers mound).



5. **Batter's Box** – You'll Need: batter's box metal template, Spike, Chalker

- Line up the template along the edge of home plate.
- The “Short Edge” goes towards mound. The “Long Edge” goes towards the fence.
- Press template into dirt to create outline OR Use a spike to outline the outer shape of the box in the dirt.
- **Pro tip** – Once the outline is created, stand behind the plate and make sure it is square before you chalk the outline.
- Fastpitch Softball box is 3' x 7'.
- Remove the template and utilize the reference mark in the dirt and chalker to mark out the batter's box, keeping the chalk on the inside of the reference mark/batter's box outline.



6. **Locating the pitching Rubber** - You'll Need: Tape measure /Hammer/Steaks. In LYS, the coach of the has team has the pitching rubber. Field prep must locate the center-front edge of the pitching mound.

- Connect the tape measure to the spike at the apex/tip of home plate.
- Following a straight line from the tip of home plate through the center of the infield / 2nd base, lay out tape.
- At the distance specified for the age group, draw a line that represents the string line and front of pitching rubber, and pound in a spike (Locate front center edge of pitching rubber).
 - i. 8U – Coach Pitch, no pitching Circle or pitching rubber required.
 - ii. 10U – 35 ft from back of home plate to front of pitching rubber.
 - iii. 12U - 40 ft from back of home plate to front of rubber
 - iv. 14U/16U/18U - 43 ft from back of home plate to front of rubber

7. **Chalking Pitching circle** – You'll Need: String line Circle Template/Chalker.

- Loop the string connected to the circle template around the spike at the front of the pitcher's mound.
- Pull the string tight and use the end of the connected stick to draw a circle in in the dirt with an 8 ft radius.
- Chalk around the inside of the circle.

