

TAAF/TRAPS SMS

Water and Rain Recovery

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Arlington, Texas

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Your fields looks like a lake!!!



WHY FIELDS DON'T DRAIN

- Fields built in the flood way.



McFalls Park built in a flood way

To minimize maintenance responsibilities:

- running paths from home to first and third to home were left grassed.
- Instead of doing the traditional baseball skinned area sliding areas were skinned.
- This reduces the amount dirt you have to get dry and keep level.



WHY FIELDS DON'T DRAIN

- Poor design
 - outfields slope towards home plate/playing area.
 - concession area/bleacher pad slopes toward your fields.
 - retaining walls/mow strip don't allow water to drain off.
 - field constructed with improper soil mixture.

Mike Lewis Park Pool Design

- **Concession stand and bleacher pad all drain to the infield.**
- **Installed asphalt curbing around the backstop fence to keep the water of the infields.**



WHY FIELDS DON'T DRAIN

- The field is not level or crowned properly.
- Poor maintenance practices.



The customer doesn't care that...

- the fields were built in the flood way
- the architectural firm that designed the complex has no experience in designing sport facilities.
- they are old and that is just the way they are.
- you don't have the staff or equipment to get them right.

The customer doesn't want to
hear you...

WHINE!!!

What to do?



Preventive Maintenance Practices

- Field leveling
 - In house field grading
 - Tools/tips
- Professional field leveling using GPS
 - Very \$\$\$
- Use proper field dragging techniques
 - Ensure low areas (sliding paths) are back filled

Eliminate field lips!!!



You can keep your lips maintained
now or pay for it later!!!



Irrigation Systems

- Outfield system
 - make sure heads are not hitting the infield
 - maintain and utilize rain sensors
- Infield system
 - set heads properly ensure staff knows where they are for dragging purposes, you don't need a manmade rainouts.
 - properly set quick couplers...utilize the 1" hose

Subsurface Drainage

- French drains
- Griggs drains
- Drainage swales

Field Amendments

- Diamond Pro
- Turface
- Other mixes



You have done your homework and
you are ready for the spring season



Disaster Strikes



You catch 9 inches of rain on Sunday

- You have 10 fields in the flood way and they were 6'-8' feet under water.
- Boy's Baseball and Girls Softball have pre-season tournaments scheduled this week
- You go to the fields and find:

Flood Damage



McFalls Park











RESERVED
PARKING



M-FALLS EAST
OKLAHOMA TEXAS

This is an extreme case...they played on 9 of the 10 fields

- You catch a good shower prior to or during a tournament...what do you do?



First let the rain stop!



**Analyze the situation, don't rush onto
the fields!!!**

You determine that you can play

- **1) Get the water off the fields.**
 - Broom, pump, or dip the water off the infields
 - Cut channels on the perimeters if your lips are holding water.

1. Get the water off!!!



2. Elbow grease: start raking the fields!

- If you have more than one field to get ready:
 - Rake fields as a team one at a time allowing “mother nature” a chance to do her magic
 - You may need to continue this process on your wettest areas

3. Apply drying agent



If you have areas you can get a field groomer on; open those up!!!

3. Drying agents con't

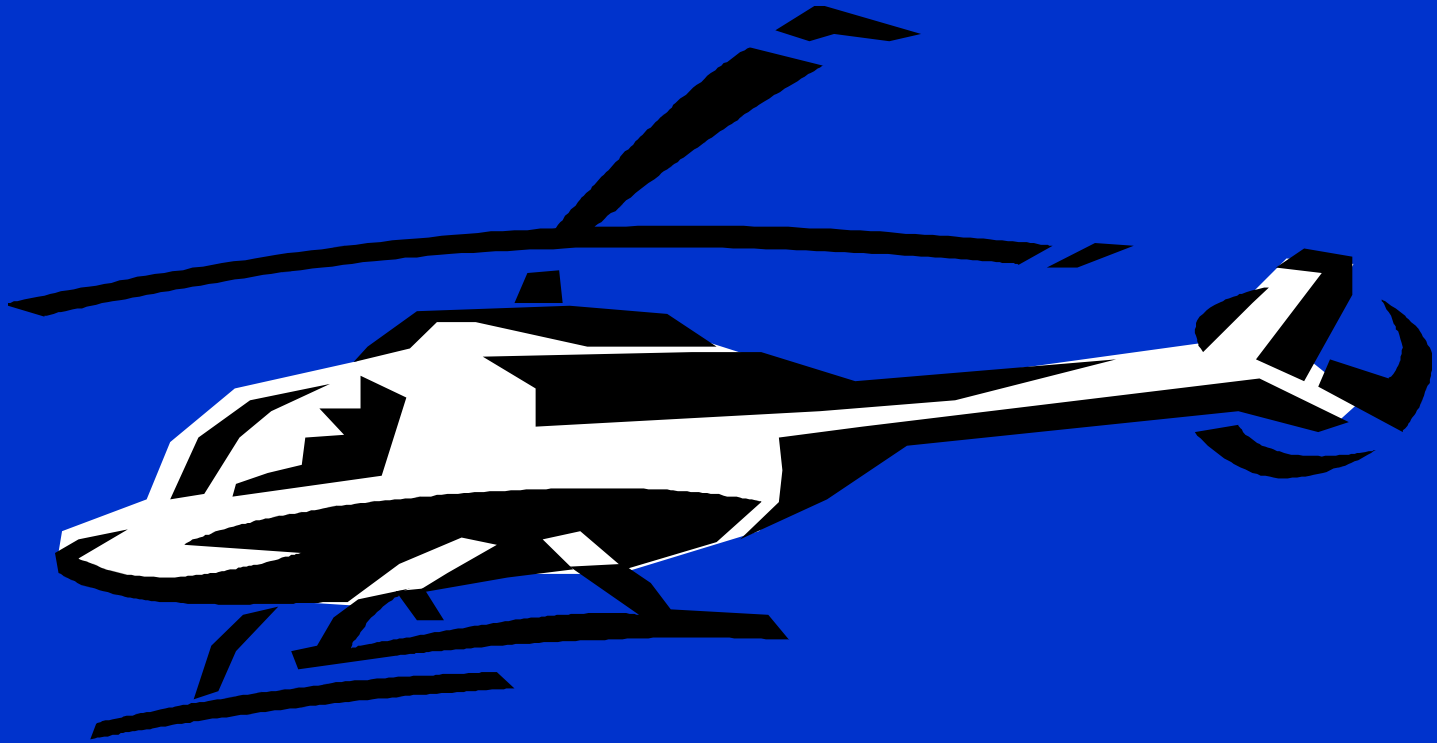
- Apply to your worst field first and continue process to the other fields.
- This approach will allow the agent to work for you.
- After all fields have been addressed go back to the first one and start raking it in on a rotational basis.

Preparing field for play

- Put groomer on field to prepare for play...avoid wet areas.
- Avoid mat dragging the field. The moist dirt will cake-up on the mat drag leaving clods and areas not smooth.
- Once the fields are deemed ready finish the field markings.
- Play Ball!!!

Questions

Things Not To Do!!!



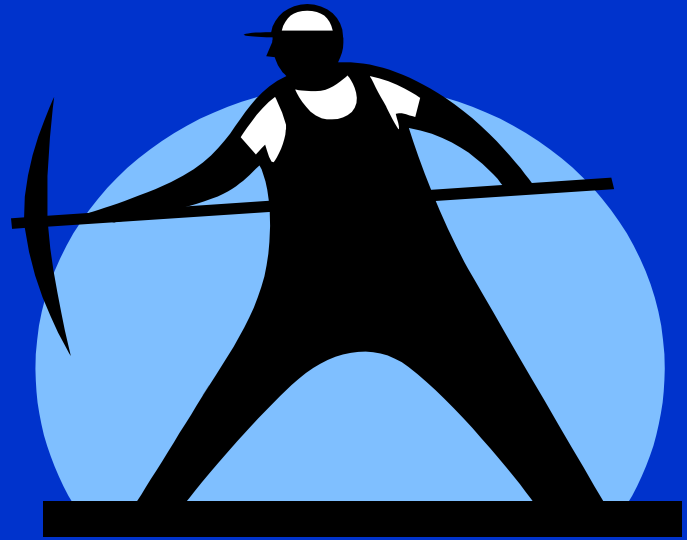
Don't waste your time or \$\$\$!!!

Don't try to burn your infields



Nothing good comes from this!!!

**Remember the best way to
combat wet fields is:**



**Elbow Grease...to do properly
there are no short cuts!!!**

**Follow our tips and you may find
the pot at the end of the rainbow**



And

You will have time for a cold 1!

