

**BLOOMINGTON FASTPITCH ASSOCIATION FIELD SET-UP
INSTRUCTIONS**

Field Prep:

Drag the entire infield smooth to eliminate any low spots using the steel field drag. Drag in a circle starting at the Pitching Plate. Use the rake to level any uneven spots around home plate, bases, or the pitching rubber.

Bases and Baselines:

The distance between all bases is 60 feet. 1st and 3rd base are measured from the rear tip of home plate to the back corner of the base. 2nd base is measured from center of base to baseline.

The white/orange double base is for first base (white fair - orange foul). Locate the base anchors for each base. The anchors should, but might not, be covered by a round rubber plug that may be slightly buried. When the base anchors are filled with dirt, clean them out. The bases simply plug in to the anchors.

Chalking: String and a spike should be available in the equipment box to use as a guide for laying down the base lines. Set the spike at the back corner of home plate, loop the string tightly to the spike and follow a 45 degree angle along the backside of the plate to the outside of 3rd base or between the double bases at first base. The baseline should be drawn all the way to the grass.

Pitching Distance:

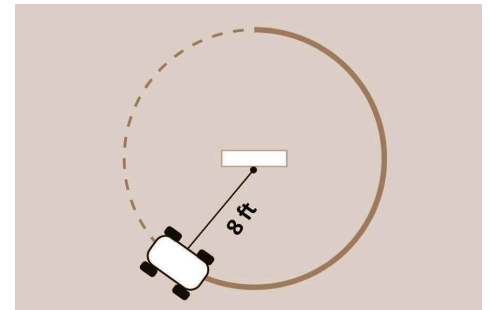
Measure from the BACK of home plate to the FRONT of the pitching rubber.

Division	Distance
Inhouse & 8U	35 feet (to front of pitching machine)
10U	35 feet
12U	40 feet
14U, 16U and 18U	43 feet

Pitcher's Circle:

The pitcher's circle is a circle 16 feet in diameter (8 foot radius) drawn from the midpoint of the front edge of the pitching rubber..

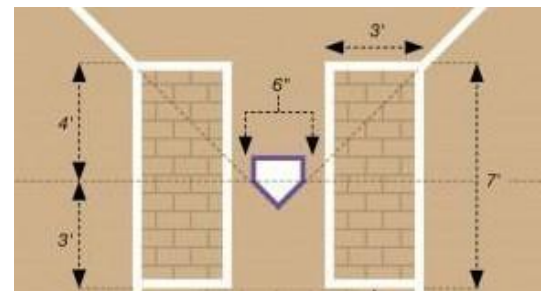
Chalking: Hammer a spike in front of the pitching rubber mid point. Loop the string over the stake and measure out 8 ft using the open-reel tape measure. Walk in a circle, inscribing in the sand. Chalk this circle using the chalking machine.



Batter's Box Dimensions:

The batter's box is 7 feet in length on both sides of home plate. The front of the batter's box is 4 feet forward from the center of home plate and 3 feet in width starting 6 inches from the plate.

Chalking: Use the templates found behind the backstop to mark the 3' X 7" batter's boxes. Press on the template so that it leaves a depression in the dirt that can be used as a chalking guide. If there is no template at the field, use stake and string to mark and chalk.



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Clean Up:

At the end of the game, drag the infield again. Ensure all field prep gear is stored inside the field box. Make sure to lock the box with the supplied padlock before leaving the field.

Pitching Machine Settings (In-house and 8u):

Below are the recommended settings for the BFA Louisville Slugger UPM45 Blue Flame Pitching Machines. These are based on a pitching distance of 35 feet with a desired speed of 30-34 mph per MN Softball 8u rules. Check each machine for adjustment instructions.

- Release Block: 4
- Power Level: 5
- Using the Micro-Adjustment Knob on the Throwing Arm you can make slight adjustments up and down in the strike zone. Simply turn the knob clockwise or counter-clockwise to move the pitch up and down in the strike zone
- Tips for accurate and consistent throws:
 - Ensure the machine is firmly staked to the field to minimize movement.
 - Place the ball with seams in the same direction each time. Recommendation is to place so that the horseshoe portion of the seams is open to the left.
 - Press the foot pedal (power level) down with even weight across the pedal.
 - Pull the release handle with a smooth motion (do not jerk!)
- Safety: Only adults should operate the pitching machine. Ensure all players are behind or beside the machine before using.

SPEED (MPH)	MICRO ADJUST		RELEASE BLOCK		POWER LEVEL		DISTANCE (FEET)
	BASEBALL	SOFTBALL	BASEBALL	SOFTBALL	BASEBALL	SOFTBALL	
44	3	1	4	4	11	11	40-54
42	3	1	4	4	10	10	40-50
40	3	1	4	4	9	9	40-50
38	3	1	4	4	8	8	40-50
36	3	1	4	4	7	7	35-40
34	3	1	4	4	6	6	35-40
32	3	1	4	4	5	5	30-40
30	3	1	4	4	4	4	30-40
28	3	1	3	3	4	4	30-35
26	3	1	3	3	3	3	30-35
24	4	2	3	3	2	2	25-30
22	4	2	3	3	1	1	20-30
20	5	3	2	2	1	1	20-25
18	5	3	1	1	1	1	20-25

Questions or Issues:

- For issues with equipment in the BFA field box, please email equipment@bloomingtonfastpitchmn.com
- For questions or issues with scheduling fields or field conditions, please contact facilities@bloomingtonfastpitchmn.com