

## **ARLINGTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION**

### **POST-GAME/PRACTICE FIELD MAINTENANCE TIPS**

Athletic field maintenance is a challenging endeavor for many reasons – weather, budget constraints, time, and overuse just to name a few. Arlington County values our user groups and recognizes there are many volunteers amongst those user groups that are ready and willing to assist the county in maintaining the athletic fields. As such, here are a handful of maintenance activities that can be performed after games or practices that will be a benefit to both the short and long-term health of the fields.

- Drag the skinned areas.
- Rake loose dirt from the grass along the base paths, the mound circle and infield edge back into the skinned areas.
- Rake, fill and groom the mound and home plate areas.
- Replace and tamp loose divots in turf areas.
- Sweep out the dugouts
- Dispose of trash and recycling in and around the field, dugouts and spectator areas.

Although the last two items are not directly related to fixing the field after a game, they do allow our Athletic Field Maintenance crews to dedicate more of their time during their work day to actually working on and improving the fields.

\*\*\*Please note that some of these maintenance activities can be carried through into the off-season. However, the most important action that can be performed in the off-season is to pull weeds and grass clumps from the skinned areas.\*\*\*