



Maintaining your Warning Track

The warning track is exactly that, a warning so players do not run into walls and avoid injury.

If you have a fence your field must have a warning track.

A warning track should extend around the entire field. This provides the player safety and reduces wear on turf in front of the dugouts and around home plate areas.

1. Mark the boundary of your warning track. An example would be about 10 feet for a standard high school field.
2. If you are constructing a new warning track, use a sod cutter or a smooth bucket tractor to cut the grass out of the warning track area. If you are adding warning track material, then cut out this at least 3" deeper than the base of the sod. Remove the sod and weeds from the field.
3. Add the warning track material. This could take several truck loads.
4. Spread out the material and drag.
5. Roll to help settle the material.
6. Drag the warning track with the same technique and drag used on the infield dirt.
7. When you drag the infield also drag the warning track to keep it maintained, weed free and smooth.

Tips

1. Your warning track can be constructed from a variety of materials. Make sure the material is a different color and texture from the rest of the playing field.
2. Little league warning tracks vary from 5 to 10 feet, but most are about 6 feet. High School warning tracks should be at least 10 feet wide. College should be 15 feet.
3. A good width is one that your drag can cover from side to side in either one or two passes. Always keep the drag off the grass!

4. A typical high school field will need about 35 yards of material to put in a solid warning track. This is roughly 52 tons of material.

Mistakes to avoid

Do not ignore your warning track and allow it to be overgrown with weeds and grass. Then it obviously no longer serves its purpose and begins to become part of the field.