

# Measuring for a Field

Before discussing how to measure your baseball diamond, there are a few baseball-specific terms to understand when talking about how to measure your field. Browse over the short glossary below for an initial reference:

## Baseball Field Glossary

- **Backstop** — The tall fence behind home plate that protects from errant pitches and foul balls.
- **Baseline** — The direct line between bases. Each baseline is the same length as the other, creating a perfect square shape.
- **Center field fence** — The section of fence in the middle part of the outfield. Center field fence measurements start from the back of home plate in a straight line to the center field fence.
- **Foul line** — A set of two straight lines chalked on the field that start at the back of home plate and go all the way to the left field and right field fences, respectively. Foul lines are used to designate the division between fair territory and foul territory.
- **Pitcher's mound** — Known also as the hill, the pitcher's mound is an elevated portion of the infield with a pitching rubber in its center. From here, the pitcher delivers pitches to the batter.
- **Pitching rubber** — A white, rectangular rubber slab on the middle of **the pitcher's mound** from which the pitcher pushes off with his or her foot to build velocity toward home plate when pitching the ball.

## How to Properly Measure a Baseball Diamond

For all measurements listed, the starting point is the back of home plate (the white part, not the black rubber). That's the pointed part that goes toward the catcher and backstop. Here's how to measure baselines:

- **Home plate to first base** — Measure from the back white part of home plate to the back corner of first base.
- **First base to second base** — Measure from the back corner of first base to the exact middle of second base.
- **Second base to third base** — Measure from the exact middle of second base to the back corner of third base.
- **Third base to home plate** — Measure from the back corner of third base to the back of home plate.

Another key measurement we will discuss is the infield arc radius. This is measured from the center of the front edge of the pitching rubber toward the outfield grass to the outer edge of the infield dirt.

Now that you know how to measure your field, let's take a look at the proper dimensions for different levels of play:

# Softball Field Dimensions

<b>Baseline</b>	65'	60'	60'	55'
<b>Home to Second</b>	91' 11"	84' 10"	84' 10"	77' 9"
<b>Home to Front of Rubber</b>	50'	43'	40'	35'
<b>Radius of Skinned Infield</b>	65'	60'	60'	55'
<b>Home Plate to Backstop</b>	25' min	25' min	25' min	25' min
<b>Home Plate Circle</b>	Varies	Varies	Varies	Varies
<b>Base Cut Out Radius</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Coach's Box From Foul Line</b>	8'	8'	8'	8'
<b>Home Plate to Left Field Distance</b>	265'	190'	200'	150'
<b>Home Plate to Center Field Distance</b>	315'	220'	225' (High School) 250' (Adult)	175'

## Tips and Notes: Baseball

Measuring base paths: The starting point is the white tip at the back of home plate (the part pointing to the catcher and backstop). Measure from the tip to the back corner of first base (the corner closest to the foul line and furthest from second base and home.) The next measurement goes from the back corner of first base to the center of second base. Now measure from this point to the back corner of third base, and then back to the original starting point at home plate.

Measuring outfield distances: The outfield fence is measured from the back of home plate, but the arc of the fence is not necessarily measured from any set point on the field. The above chart reflects the measured distance from the back of home plate to left and centerfield.

Measuring base cutouts: The normal diameter for an on-deck batting circle is 5 feet. Base cutouts are measured from the back corner of the base (closest to the foul line, furthest from home). The above chart lists cut out radiuses and recommended distances for dugouts from the foul line.

Measuring pitcher's mounds: A major league mound is 18 feet in diameter and 10 inches higher than home plate. The pitching rubber is 18 inches back from the center of the mound. The flat area on top of the mound is 5 feet by 34 inches. The 6 inches in front of the pitching rubber is flat, and then begins to grade down one inch per foot. The above chart shows mound diameters and heights for different levels of play.

## Tips and Notes: Softball

Softball rules are very clear about base paths and backstop distances. The skinned infield must extend at least 3 feet past the foul line before grass starts and backstops must be a minimum of 25 feet from the back of home plate. The accepted diameter for the pitching area is 16 feet.