



CLUB FACILITY RESOURCE GUIDE



FOR NATIONAL, STATE
AND LOCAL FACILITIES

JULY 2016



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Introduction

The purpose of this document is to outline the preferred facility requirements for hosting a variety of Australian baseball events and provide educational resources on how to meet these standards.

The information in this document has been developed to help provide direction and guidance for associations and clubs who are planning to redevelop their facilities.

Different events require different characteristics in a facility. These characteristics vary based on a number of factors related to the specific event, including size, quality standard, number of diamonds, lighting, etc.



This document will outline the preferred facility requirements for the following event categories:

Australian Baseball League

The Australian Baseball League (ABL) is the National professional League and represents the highest standards in Australia. The ABL is governed by the ABL Facility Standards (a separate document to this one).

Baseball Australia National Events

Baseball Australia hosts several national events, across a range of age and competition levels. These events include for example National Youth Championships, Senior League Championships, Junior League Championships, Little League Championships, Women's Championships.

International Events

Australia is a potential host for international baseball club programs, tournaments, and other events. These programs, tournaments, and events often require an international standard facility.

Club Competition

This category represents all facilities fit for hosting recreational or club competitions, including both purpose-built baseball facilities and fields found in shared parks or multi-sport complexes.

Some of the material in this document has been derived from other sources, which include "Murray Cook's Field Maintenance – A Basic Guide for Baseball & Softball Field of All Levels (2012). The Baseball Tomorrow Fund.", and the "Beacon Athletics Ballfield Dimensions & Reference Guide, Version 2.3.",

Sample Field Layout



Preferred Facility Requirements – Ballpark Construction

There are several elements of baseball facility construction. This section will provide some additional detail on the standards for each of the following major elements:

- Backstops
- Dugouts
- Fencing
- Lighting
- Batting Cages
- Change Rooms

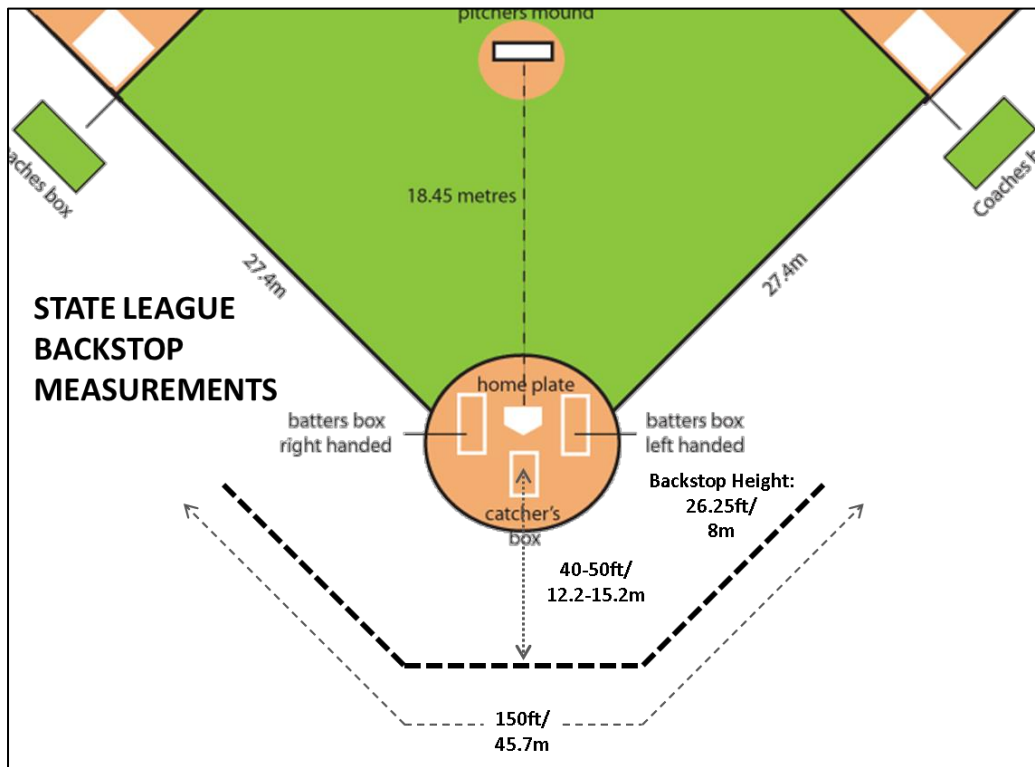
There is additional detail about these and other sections available in the Beacon Athletics Ballfield Dimensions & Reference Guide, which can be found in the Educational Resources Section of this guide.

Measurement Table | Ballpark Construction

League Categories	System of Measurement		Backstop Length	Backstop Height	Distance to Homeplate	Dugout Length	Dugout Depth	Dugout Height	Dugout Capacity	Lighting - Infield	Lighting - Outfield	Batting Cage Length	Batting Cage Width	Batting Cage Height	Home Run Fencing Height	Sideline Fence Height	Change Room Size	Change Room Capacity	Umpires Change Room	Bullpen Length	Bullpen Width	Pitching Mound Diameter	Distance between HP and PR
	Standard	Metric																					
ABL	Standard	150'	26.25'	40'-50'	60'	12'	8'	Over 20 people	1500 Lux	1000 Lux	70'	12'-14'	12'	8'	2.95'	600 sq ft	20-30 people	200 sq ft	80'	30'	20'	60-6"	
	Metric	45.7m	8m	12.2m-15.24m	18.3m	3.7m	2.4m	-	-	-	21.3m	3.7m-4.3m	3.7m	2.5m	90cm	56.5 sq m	-	18.6 sq m	24.38m	9.14m	6.1m	18.44m	
Senior League Championships	Standard	150'	26.25'	40'-50'	60'	12'	8'	Over 20 people	750 Lux	500 Lux	70'	12'-14'	12'	8'	2.95'	600 sq ft	20-30 people	200 sq ft	80'	30'	20'	60-6"	
	Metric	45.7m	8m	12.2m-15.24m	18.3m	3.7m	2.4m	-	-	-	21.3m	3.7m-4.3m	3.7m	2.5m	90cm	56.5 sq m	-	18.6 sq m	24.38m	9.14m	6.1m	18.44m	
Junior League Championships	Standard	100'	16.4'	30'-50'	40'	12'	8'	20 people	500 Lux	300 Lux	70'	12'-14'	12'	5'	2.95'	500 sq ft	20-30 people	200 sq ft	60'	20'	12'	46'	
	Metric	27.6m	5m	9.2m-15.24m	12.19m	3.7m	2.4m	-	-	-	21.3m	3.7m-4.3m	3.7m	1.8m	90cm	46.5 sq m	-	18.6 sq m	18.3m	6.1m	3.65m	14m	
Little League	Standard	100'	16.4'	30'-50'	40'	12'	8'	20 people	500 Lux	300 Lux	70'	12'-14'	12'	5'	2.95'	500 sq ft	20-30 people	200 sq ft	60'	20'	12'	46'	
	Metric	27.6m	5m	9.2m-15.24m	12.19m	3.7m	2.4m	-	-	-	21.3m	3.7m-4.3m	3.7m	1.8m	90cm	46.5 sq m	-	18.6 sq m	18.3m	6.1m	3.65m	14m	
Womens Championships	Standard	150'	26.25'	40'-50'	60'	12'	8'	Over 20 people	750 Lux	500 Lux	70'	12'-14'	12'	8'	2.95'	600 sq ft	20-30 people	200 sq ft	80'	30'	20'	60-6"	
	Metric	45.7m	8m	12.2m-15.24m	18.3m	3.7m	2.4m	-	-	-	21.3m	3.7m-4.3m	3.7m	2.5m	90cm	56.5 sq m	-	18.6 sq m	24.38m	9.14m	6.1m	18.44m	
Youth Womens Championships	Standard	100'	16.4'	30'-50'	40'	12'	8'	20 people	500 Lux	300 Lux	70'	12'-14'	12'	5'	2.95'	500 sq ft	20-30 people	200 sq ft	60'	20'	12'	46'	
	Metric	27.6m	5m	9.2m-15.24m	12.19m	3.7m	2.4m	-	-	-	21.3m	3.7m-4.3m	3.7m	1.8m	90cm	46.5 sq m	-	18.6 sq m	18.3m	6.1m	3.65m	14m	
National Youth Championships (U18)	Standard	150'	26.25'	40'-50'	60'	12'	8'	Over 20 people	750 Lux	500 Lux	70'	12'-14'	12'	8'	2.95'	600 sq ft	20-30 people	200 sq ft	80'	30'	20'	60-6"	
	Metric	45.7m	8m	12.2m-15.24m	18.3m	3.7m	2.4m	-	-	-	21.3m	3.7m-4.3m	3.7m	2.5m	90cm	56.5 sq m	-	18.6 sq m	24.38m	9.14m	6.1m	18.44m	
National Youth Championships (U16)	Standard	100'	16.4'	30'-50'	40'	12'	8'	Over 20 people	500 Lux	300 Lux	70'	12'-14'	12'	5'	2.95'	500 sq ft	20-30 people	200 sq ft	60'	20'	12'	46'	
	Metric	27.6m	5m	9.2m-15.24m	12.19m	3.7m	2.4m	-	-	-	21.3m	3.7m-4.3m	3.7m	1.8m	90cm	46.5 sq m	-	18.6 sq m	18.3m	6.1m	3.65m	14m	
International Academy / Spring Training	Standard	150'	26.25'	40'-50'	60'	12'	8'	Over 20 people	750 Lux	500 Lux	70'	12'-14'	12'	8'	2.95'	600 sq ft	20-30 people	200 sq ft	80'	30'	20'	60-6"	
	Metric	45.7m	8m	12.2m-15.24m	18.3m	3.7m	2.4m	-	-	-	21.3m	3.7m-4.3m	3.7m	2.5m	90cm	56.5 sq m	-	18.6 sq m	24.38m	9.14m	6.1m	18.44m	

Backstops

The backstop separates and protects the area directly behind home plate, and normally stretches from dugout to dugout. Measurements may vary depending on space available, location of dugouts and other factors. The purpose of the backstop is generally to prevent foul balls from leaving the playing area and provide safety to spectators.



Backstops can be made from either chain link fencing, or more preferably nets and cables. The nets and cables are preferred for State and higher levels of competition, as they offer easier viewing for spectators and playability. Professional stadiums typically use netting for spectator protection. Where circumstances dictate, a combination of netting above chain link can provide additional protection.

Before each season or before a particular event, it is important for either the grounds crew or facility manager to inspect the backstop to check for any damage or deterioration that creates a safety hazard for players, staff and spectators. If netting is used for the backstop, one aspect to check for is any broken or missing ties. If these are present, it allows the fencing to separate from its posts and rails.

Photo Examples:



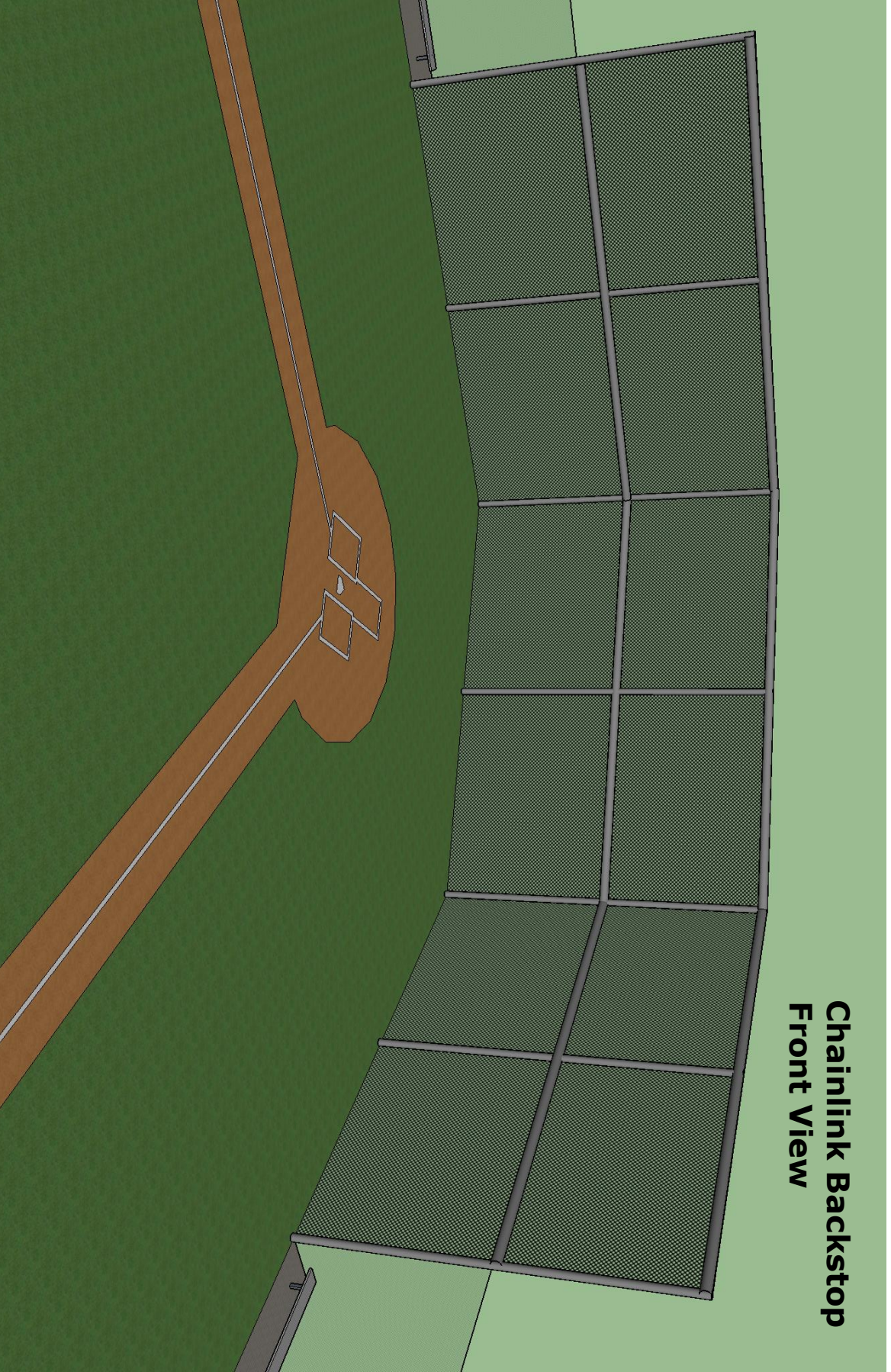
Chain linked backstop –
Baxter Field at Albert Park,
Lismore



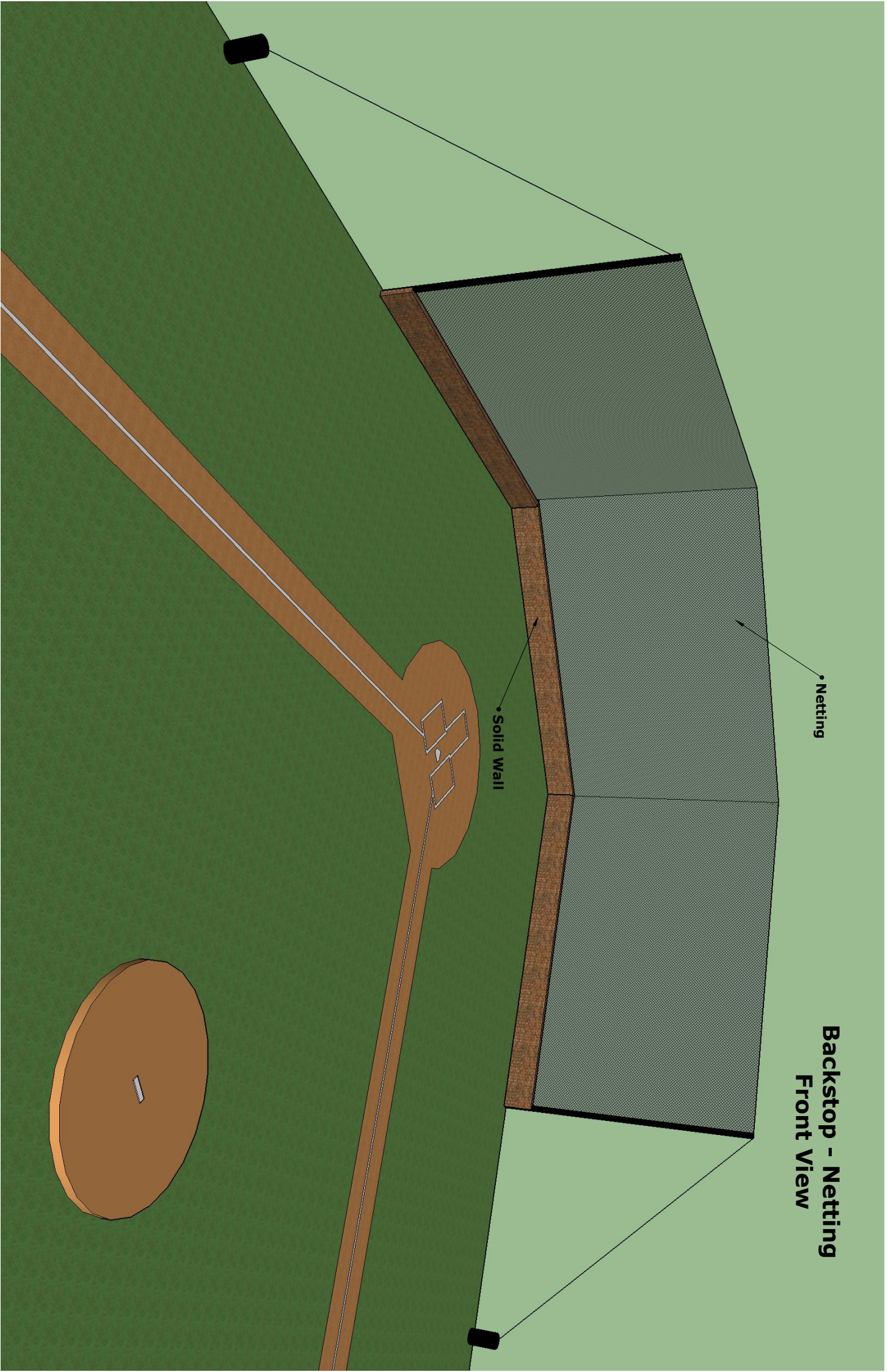
Net and cable backstop –
Narrabundah Ballpark,
Canberra

Backstop Measurement Table

League Categories	System of Measurement	Backstop Length	Backstop Height	Distance to Homeplate
ABL	Standard	150'	26.25'	40'-50'
	Metric	45.7m	8m	12.2m-15.24m
Senior League Championships	Standard	150'	26.25'	40'-50'
	Metric	45.7m	8m	12.2m-15.24m
Junior League Championships	Standard	100'	16.4'	30'-50'
	Metric	27.6m	5m	9.2m-15.24m
Little League	Standard	100'	16.4'	30'-50'
	Metric	27.6m	5m	9.2m-15.24m
Womens Championships	Standard	150'	26.25'	40'-50'
	Metric	45.7m	8m	12.2m-15.24m
Youth Womens Championships	Standard	100'	16.4'	30'-50'
	Metric	27.6m	5m	9.2m-15.24m
National Youth Championships (U18)	Standard	150'	26.25'	40'-50'
	Metric	45.7m	8m	12.2m-15.24m
National Youth Championships (U16)	Standard	100'	16.4'	30'-50'
	Metric	27.6m	5m	9.2m-15.24m



**Chainlink Backstop
Front View**



• Netting

• Solid Wall

**Backstop - Netting
Front View**

Dugouts

The home and away team dugouts are built on opposite sides of each other, one in-between Homeplate and First base, and the other in-between Third base and Homeplate.

Dugouts can be built on field level or they can be sunken below ground. Sunken dugouts are more traditional and allows for better viewing by spectators behind the dugout, however field level dugouts may provide lower cost and maintenance benefits compared to sunken dugouts.

Dugouts should be covered and have a maximum of two entrances/exits that are between 4ft to 7 ft wide. Most dugouts are built to fit at least 20 players as well as coaches, and have bench seating typically the length of the entire dugout. A bench with seatback is recommended.

Dugouts can be constructed out of chain linked or concrete, however as it is a player safety issue it is required that all dugouts have a roof or shade sail as a cover to protect players and coaches from the inclement weather, especially in hot weather climates.



Sunken Dugouts –
Narrabundah Ballpark,
Canberra

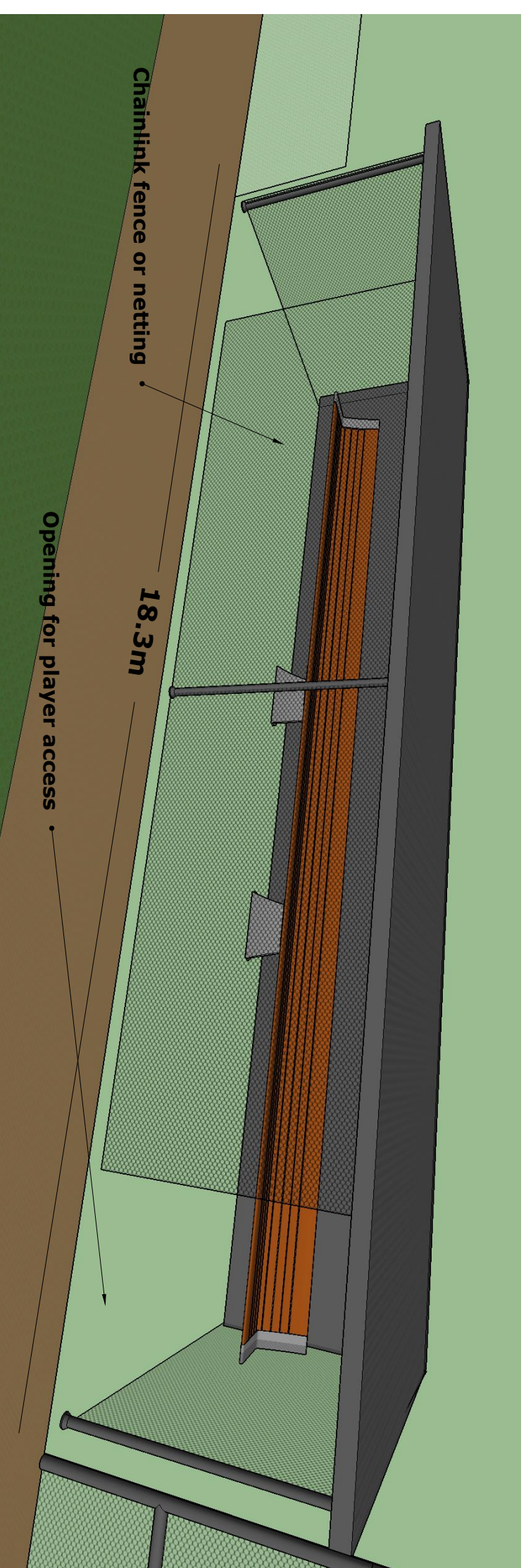
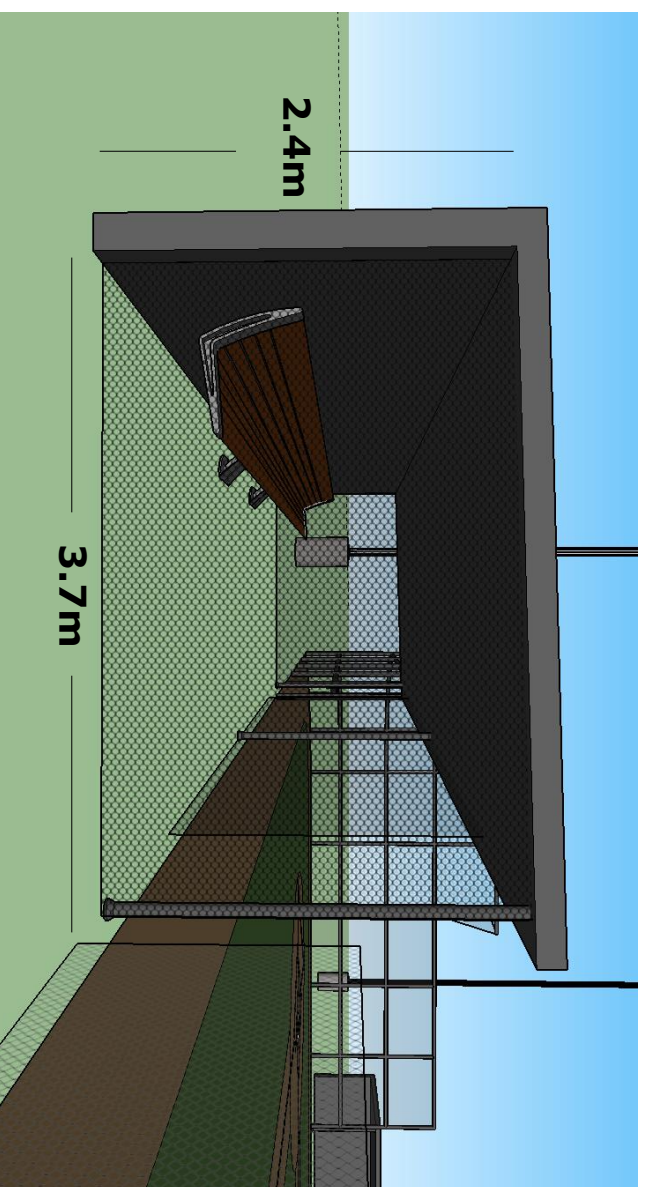


Field-level Dugouts –
North Dalton Park,
Wollongong

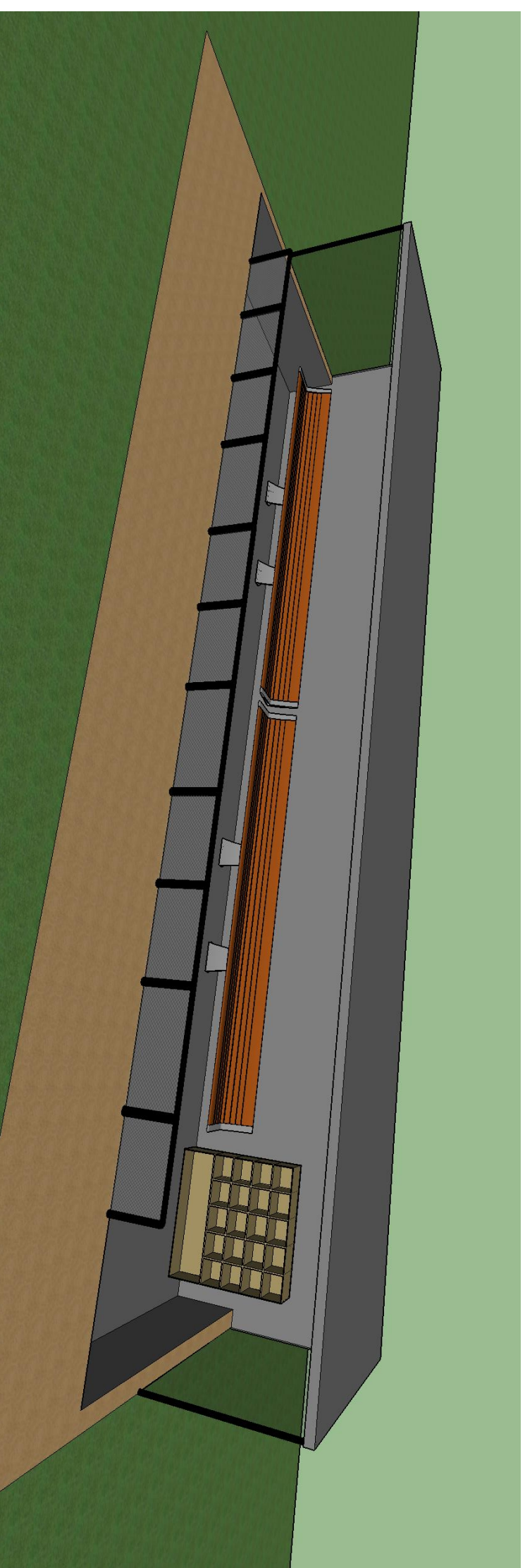
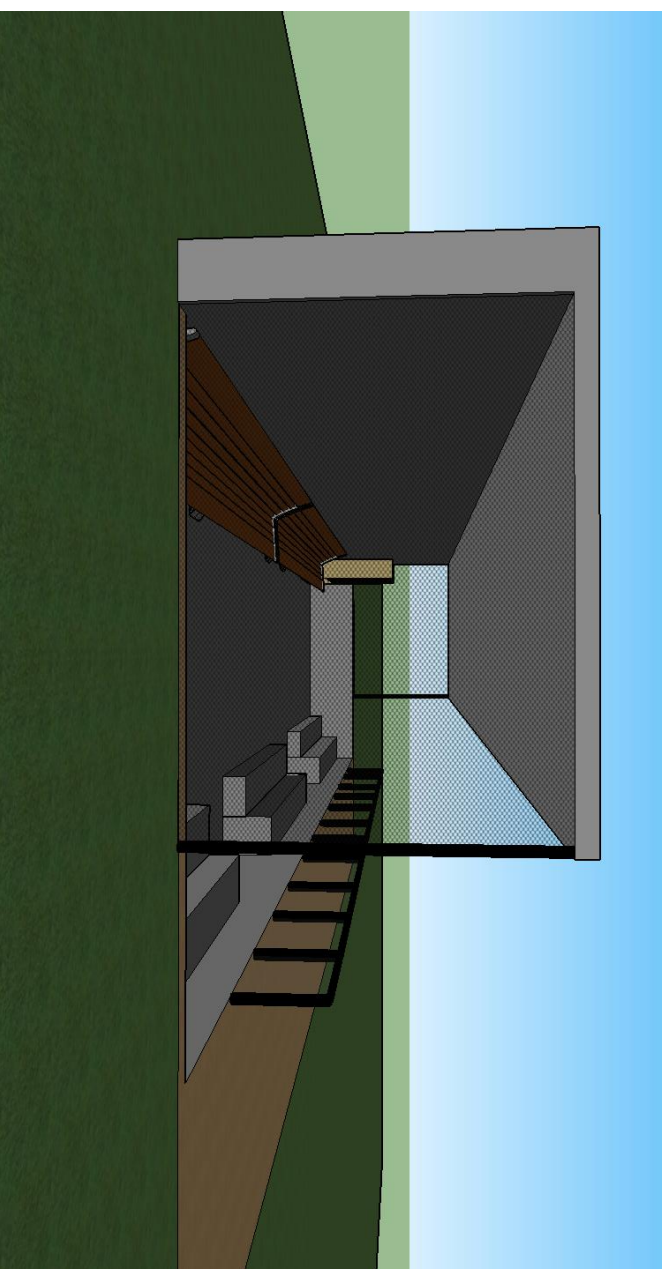
Dugout Measurement Table

League Categories	System of Measurement	Dugout Length	Dugout Depth	Dugout Height	Dugout Capacity
ABL	Standard	60'	12'	8'	Over 20 people
	Metric	18.3m	3.7m	2.4m	-
Senior League Championships	Standard	60'	12'	8'	Over 20 people
	Metric	18.3m	3.7m	2.4m	-
Junior League Championships	Standard	40'	12'	8'	Over 20 people
	Metric	12.19m	3.7m	2.4m	-
Little League	Standard	40'	12'	8'	20 people
	Metric	12.19m	3.7m	2.4m	-
Womens Championships	Standard	60'	12'	8'	Over 20 people
	Metric	18.3m	3.7m	2.4m	-
Youth Womens Championships	Standard	40'	12'	8'	20 people
	Metric	12.19m	3.7m	2.4m	-
National Youth Championships	Standard	60'	12'	8'	Over 20 people
	Metric	18.3m	3.7m	2.4m	-
National Youth Championships	Standard	40'	12'	8'	Over 20 people
	Metric	12.19m	3.7m	2.4m	-
International Academy / Spring	Standard	60'	12'	8'	Over 20 people
	Metric	18.3m	3.7m	2.4m	-

Standard Dugouts Built on field level



Standard Sunken Dugouts



Fencing

Clubs must ensure that the fence covers the whole length of the playing field with the size and make of the fence is suitable and safe for players of all ages. Typically the fencing for the perimeter of the field of play is made up of chain link fencing. For higher levels of play such as State level competition and above, the outfield fencing is padded with 3 inch foam, which decreases the chance of injury to the player if they were to run into the fence.

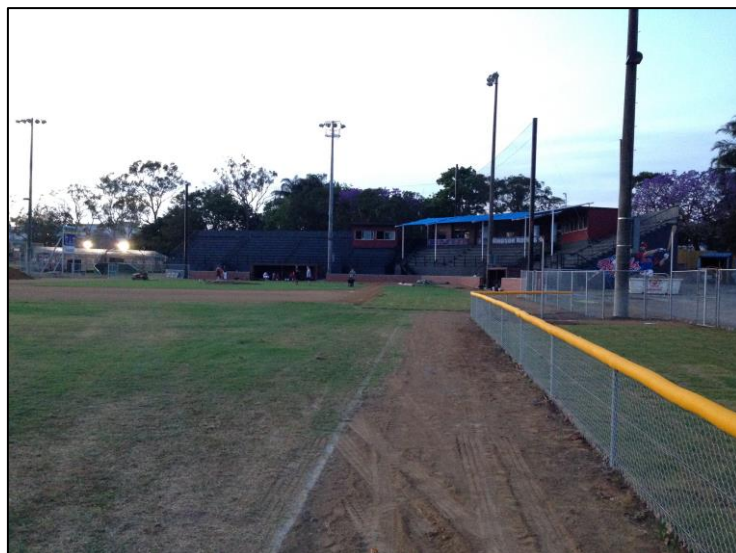
It is required for some fields to have gates in the outfield fence so that the public may have access when there are no games occurring. However when there are games to be played on these fields, these gates should be closed.

In cases where the fence is made up of chain link, protective fence caps are installed onto these fences for player safety. These are made up of plastic and are attached to the top of the fence.

The preferred home run fence is 2.4m high. The preferred sideline fences are 900mm high.



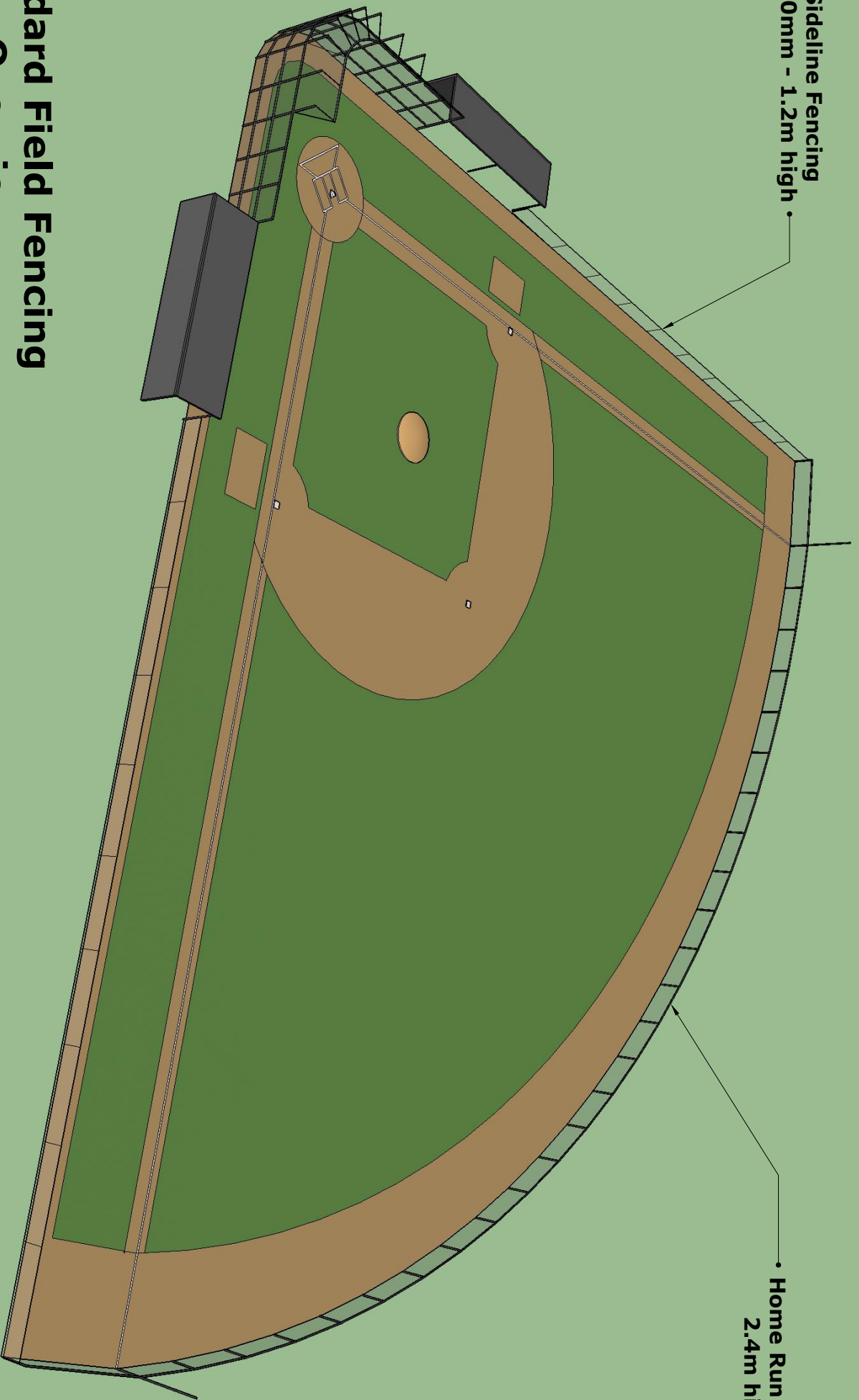
Outfield fencing with padding



Chain link fencing with protective cap

Fencing Measurement Table

League Categories	System of Measurement	Home Run Fencing Height	Sideline Fence Height
ABL	Standard	8'	2.95'
	Metric	2.5m	90cm
Senior League Championships	Standard	8'	2.95'
	Metric	2.5m	90cm
Junior League Championships	Standard	5'	2.95'
	Metric	1.8m	90cm
Little League	Standard	5'	2.95'
	Metric	1.8m	90cm
Womens Championships	Standard	8'	2.95'
	Metric	2.5m	90cm
Youth Womens Championships	Standard	5'	2.95'
	Metric	1.8m	90cm
National Youth Championships	Standard	8'	2.95'
	Metric	2.5m	90cm
National Youth Championships	Standard	5'	2.95'
	Metric	1.8m	90cm
International Academy /	Standard	8'	2.95'
	Metric	2.5m	90cm



Sideline Fencing
900mm - 1.2m high

Home Run Fence
2.4m high

Standard Field Fencing Overview

Bullpen

A field generally has two bullpens consisting of two pitching rubbers and plates at regulation distance from each other.

Bullpens are either located off the field enclosed with minimum 1.8m high fencing, which is what is preferred by most clubs and staff, or on the field in foul territory.

The ground of the bullpen is typically covered with synthetic turf, with the pitching mound built on top of clay. Alternatively, you could use synthetic turf only from the back fence to the front of the Home Plate (HP) section. You would want to do this if the bullpens were on the field.

Each bullpen has a bench area that is located either along the side of the bullpen or behind the pitching mound if there is room, though it is commonly seen along the side. Though it is not mandatory, it is preferred the bench area be covered. This is for a few reasons, being it protects those sitting there from the weather conditions, and from any foul balls that may be hit in that bullpens direction.



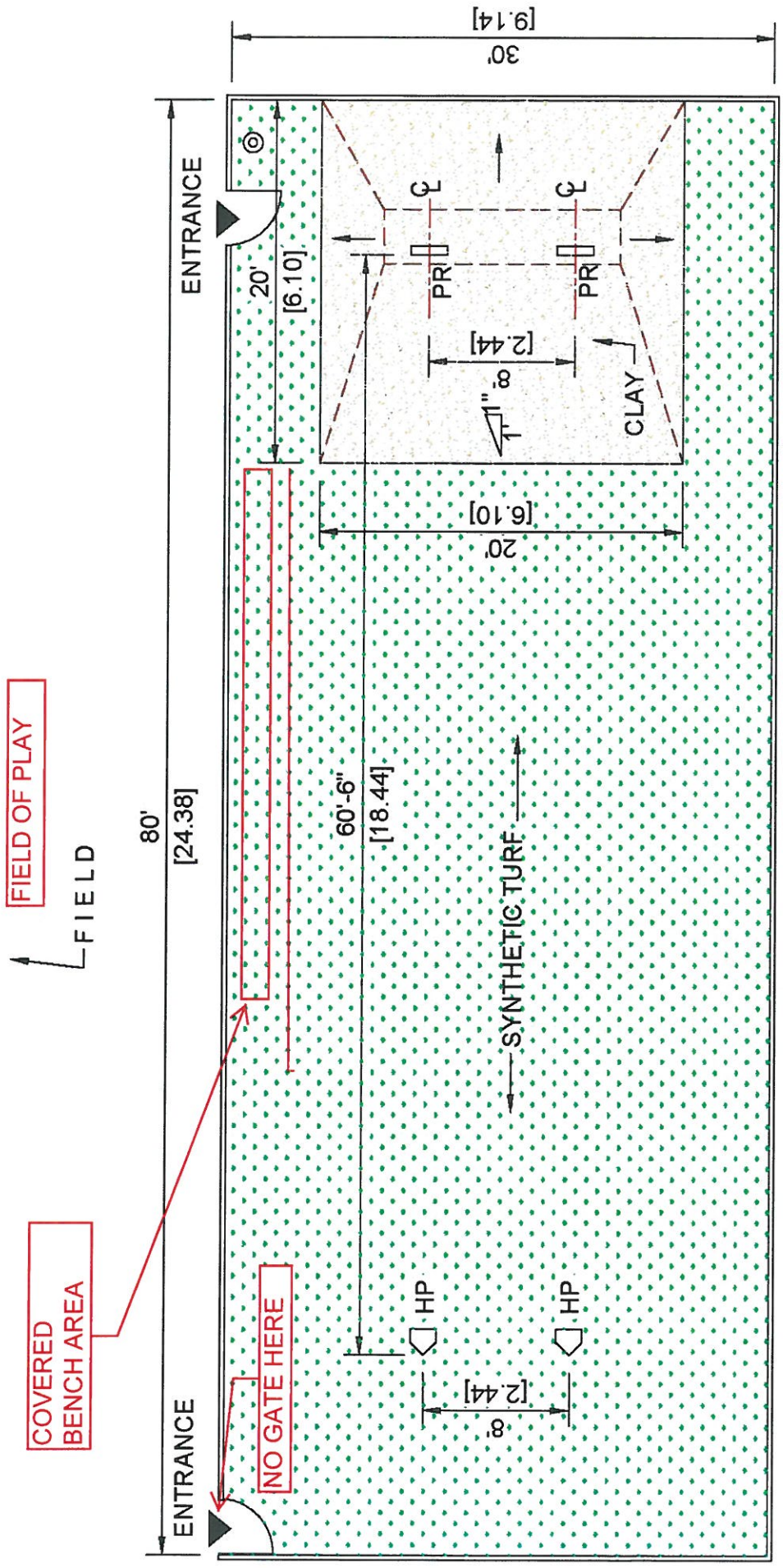
Fenced off Bullpen located off the field – Blue Sox Stadium, Rooty Hill

Bullpen Dimensions

Bullpen Length	Bullpen Width	Pitching Mound Length	Pitching Mound Width	Distance between HP and PR
80'	30'	20'	20'	60'-6"
24.38m	9.14m	6.1m	6.1m	18.44m

*HP = Homeplate, PR = Pitching Rubber

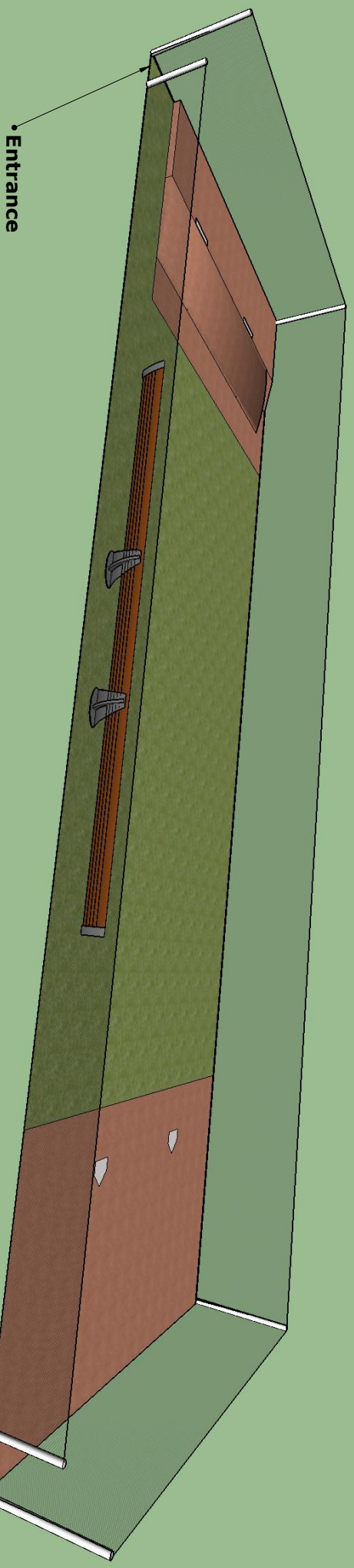
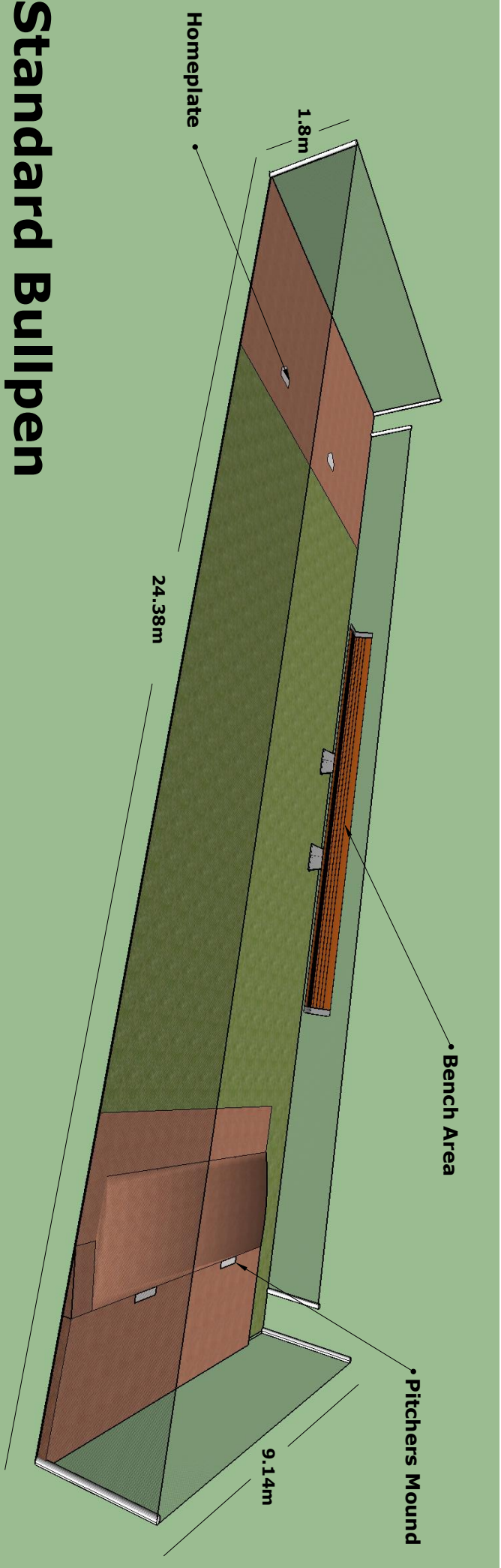
Bullpen (



- HP: HOMEPLATE
- PB: PITCHER'S RUBBER
- ⊙ QUICK COUPLING VALVE (1"Ø)
+ 10" ROUND VALVE BOX

THIS IS A SUGGESTED CONCEPT AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AS A CONSTRUCTION DIAGRAM. WE WOULD MOVE THE BULLPEN MORE TOWARDS THE BACK ALLOWING FOR MORE SEATING ROOM

Standard Bullpen



Lighting

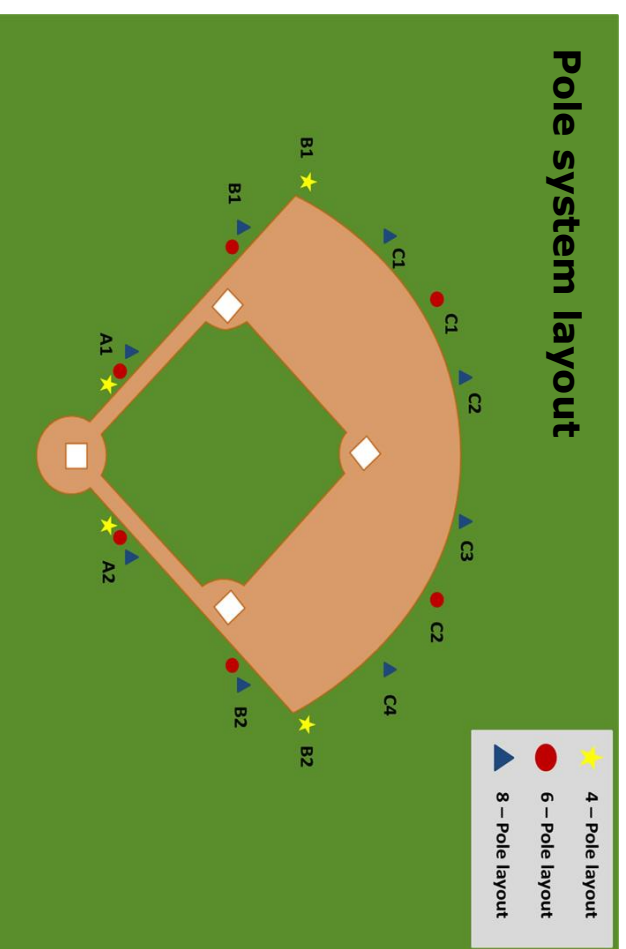
When planning the installation or replacement of field lighting, keep in mind that there are different levels of lighting requirements and layouts for each level of play. There are standards to which clubs should follow for lighting for baseball games to which this section details. It provides recommendations for training and several levels of competition play.

Proper illuminance (the quantity of light arriving at a surface) and light direction are critical. In flight, the baseball may be momentarily not visible from direct glare from light sources. Requirements for each field depend on the type of play – little league, junior league, senior league and professional stadiums. Floodlights are arranged to ensure overlapping beams in four directions over the infield area and from two directions over the outfield. The recommended height of the lowest floodlight is 25 metres.

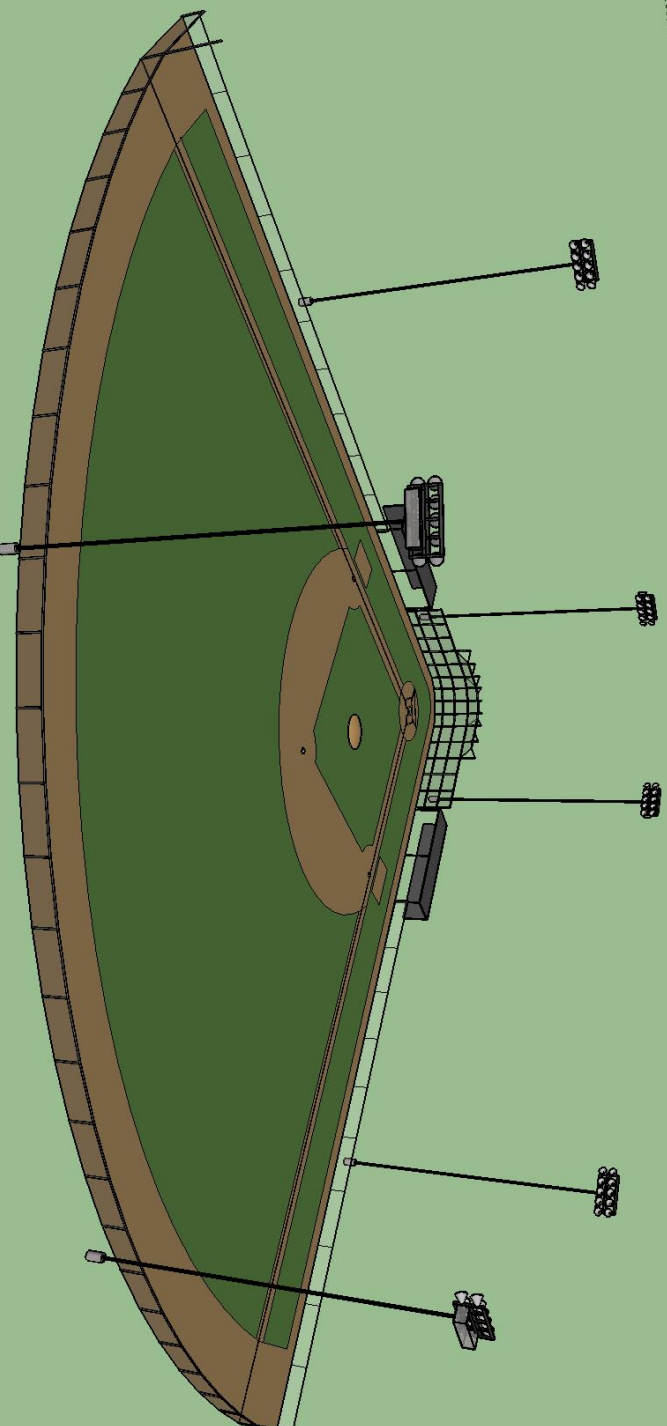
Field Lighting Table

League Categories	System of Measurement	Lighting - Infield	Lighting - Outfield
ABL	Standard	1500 Lux	1000 Lux
	Metric	-	-
Senior League Championshi	Standard	750 Lux	500 Lux
	Metric	-	-
Junior League Championshi	Standard	500 Lux	300 Lux
	Metric	-	-
Little League	Standard	500 Lux	300 Lux
	Metric	-	-
Womens Championshi	Standard	750 Lux	500 Lux
	Metric	-	-
Youth Womens	Standard	500 Lux	300 Lux
	Metric	-	-
National Youth	Standard	750 Lux	500 Lux
	Metric	-	-
National Youth	Standard	500 Lux	300 Lux
	Metric	-	-
International Academy /	Standard	750 Lux	500 Lux
	Metric	-	-

Field Lighting layout



6-Pole Layout Example



Batting Cages

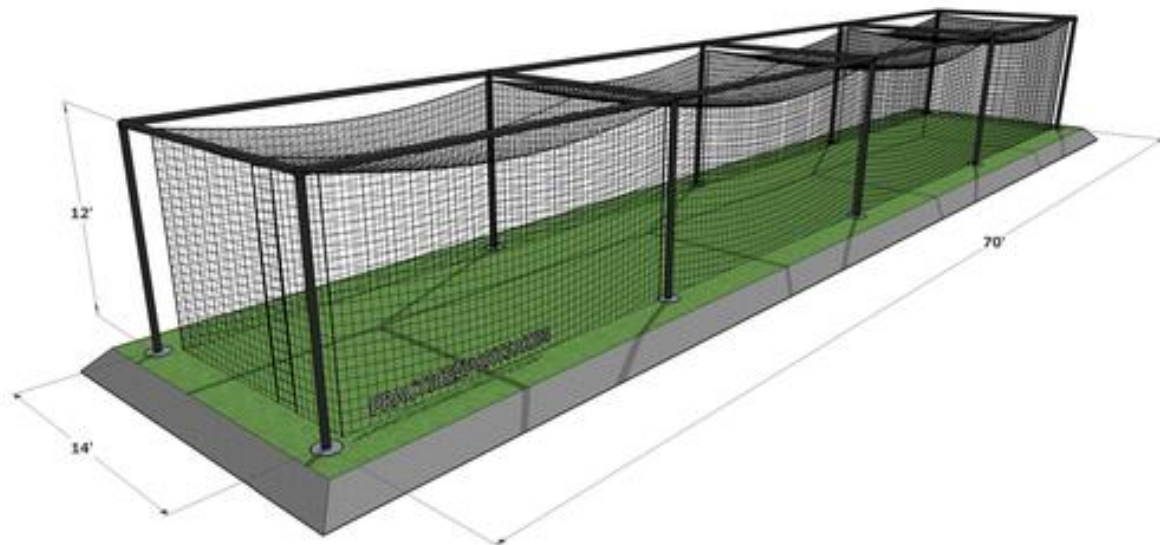
Batting cages are often for trainings or to provide additional hitting practice . Some batting cages are suspended by cables, although many cages are supported with chain link or aluminum tubing. If using the latter material, the tubing should be covered with foam padding for safety. The netting on batting cages is similar to that used on portable batting cages.

Outdoor batting cages should measure 70ft – 80ft long. Any shorter models may only be useful for side-feeding or hitting off a tee, and not for batting practice at high levels of baseball.

The widths of batting cages can vary a little between different models. A standard cage can measure 14ft (4.3m) across.

The height of batting cage ceilings can also vary, with minimum height measuring 12 ft (3.66m) high.

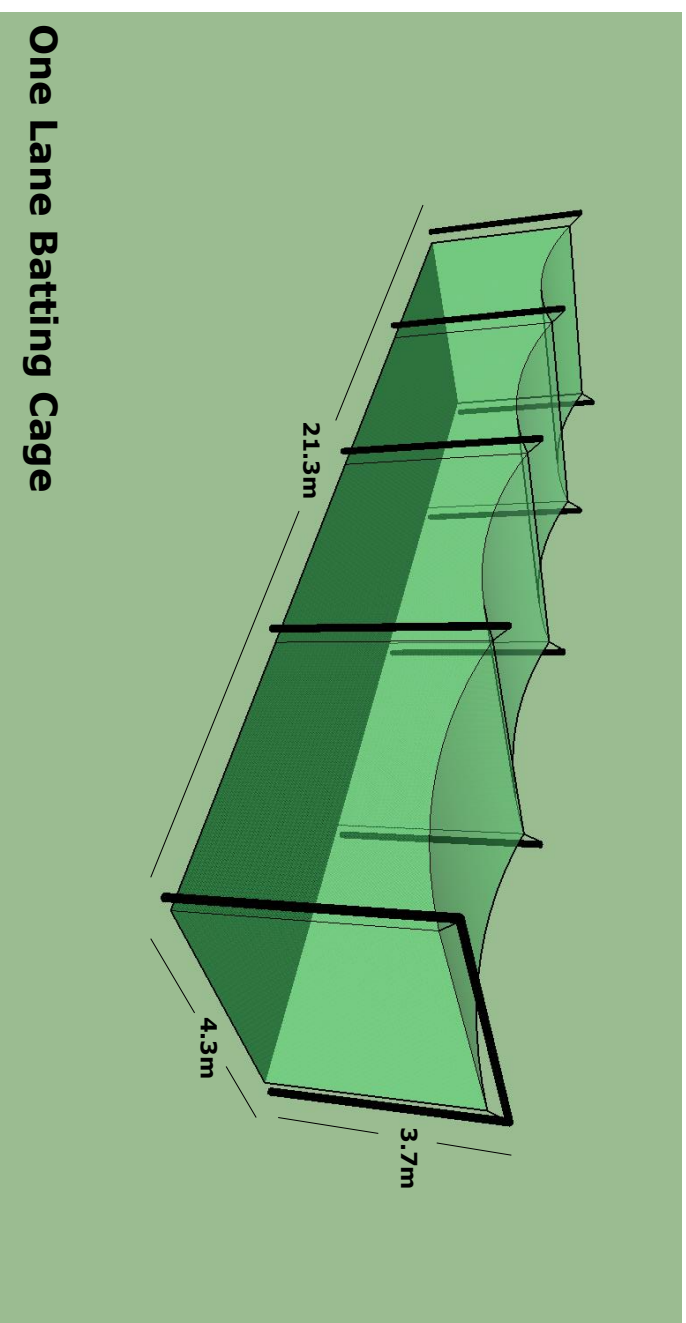
Batting cages with netting installed are recommended. If netting is used, it should be hung on the inside of cage. The cage itself can be made of chain link fencing if vandalism is a risk at the facility. Netting should be hung at least 5 metres high inside the fencing to maximize its useful life.



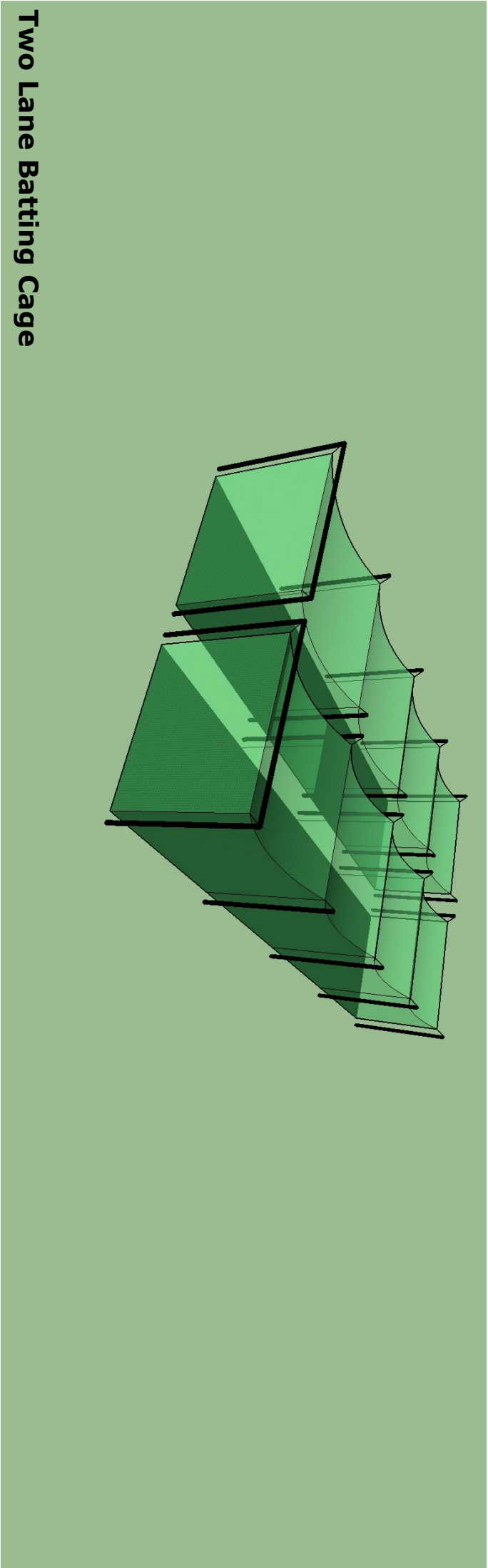
Batting Cage Measurement Table

League Categories	System of Measurement	Batting Cage Length	Batting Cage Width	Batting Cage Height
ABL	Standard	70'	12'-14'	12'
	Metric	21.3m	3.7m-4.3m	3.7m
Senior League Championships	Standard	70'	12'-14'	12'
	Metric	21.3m	3.7m-4.3m	3.7m
Junior League Championships	Standard	70'	12'-14'	12'
	Metric	21.3m	3.7m-4.3m	3.7m
Little League	Standard	70'	12'-14'	12'
	Metric	21.3m	3.7m-4.3m	3.7m
Womens Championships	Standard	70'	12'-14'	12'
	Metric	21.3m	3.7m-4.3m	3.7m
Youth Womens Championships	Standard	70'	12'-14'	12'
	Metric	21.3m	3.7m-4.3m	3.7m
National Youth Championships (U18)	Standard	70'	12'-14'	12'
	Metric	21.3m	3.7m-4.3m	3.7m
National Youth Championships (U16)	Standard	70'	12'-14'	12'
	Metric	21.3m	3.7m-4.3m	3.7m
International Academy / Spring	Standard	70'	12'-14'	12'
	Metric	21.3m	3.7m-4.3m	3.7m

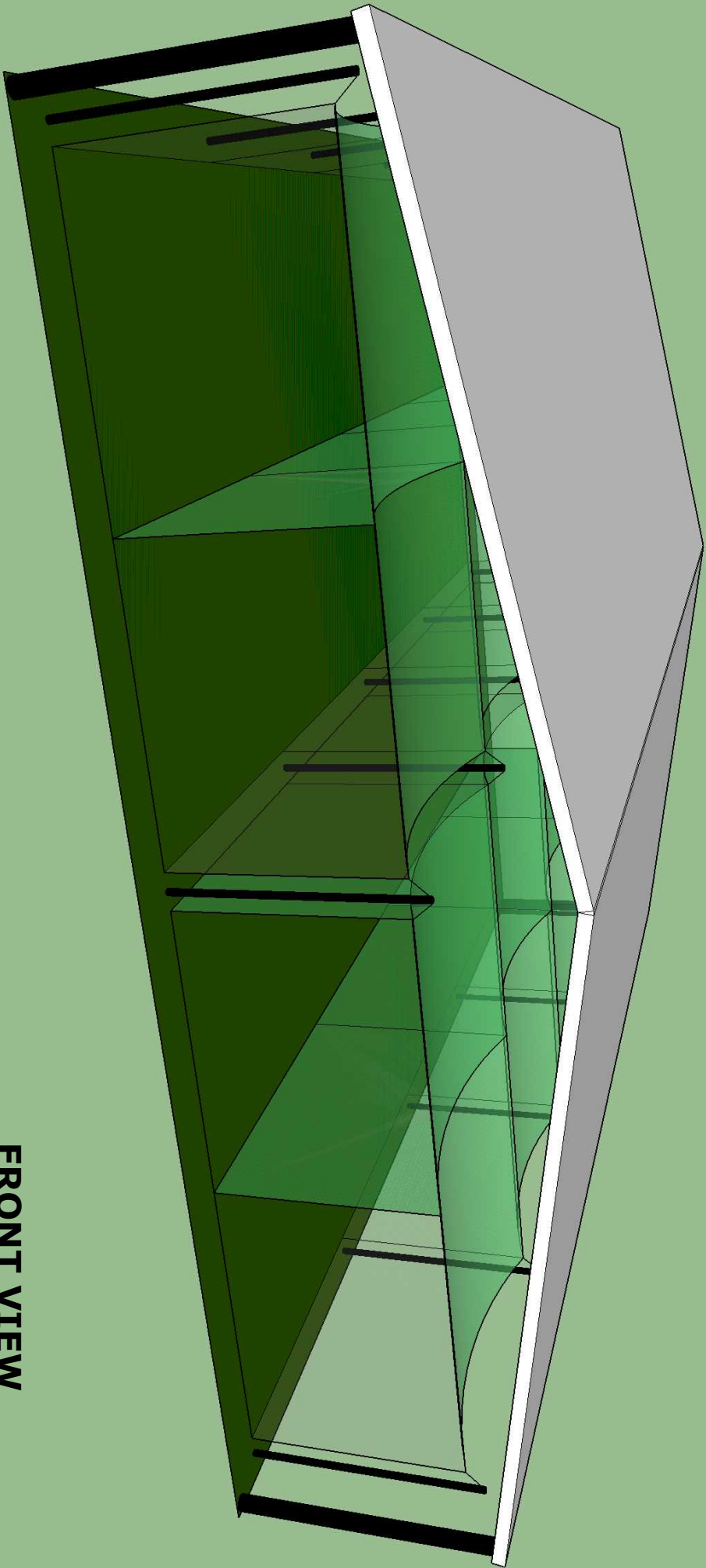
Standard Batting Cages



Two Lane Batting Cage



**FRONT VIEW
BATTING CAGES**



Change Rooms

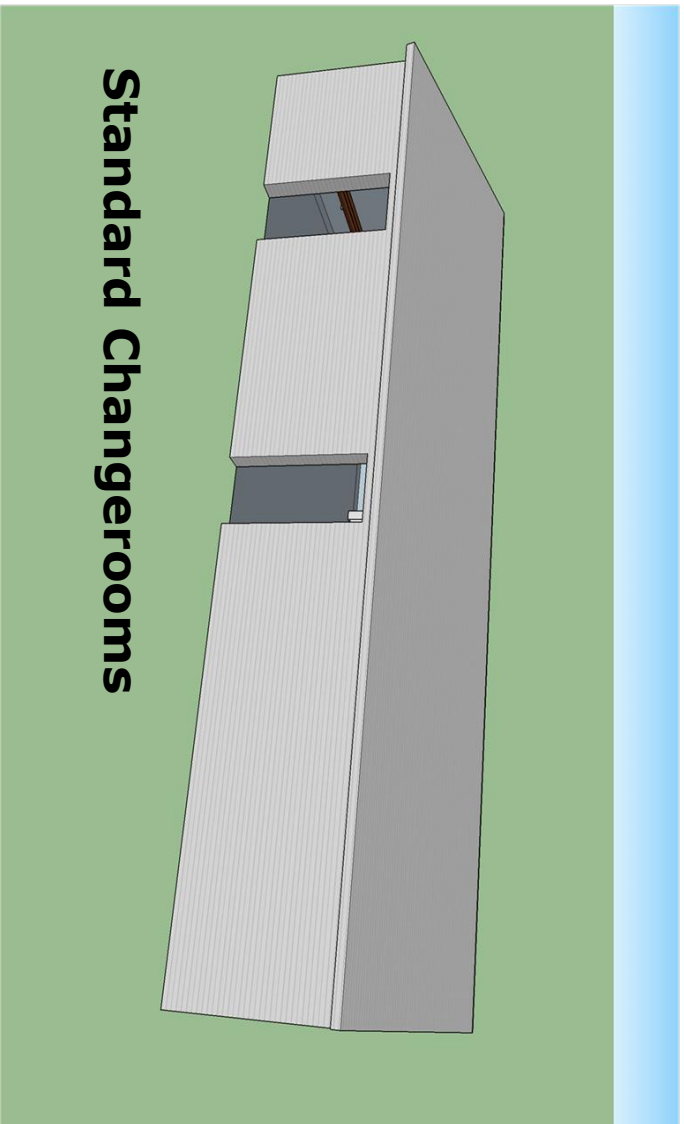
Facilities should be fitted with change rooms, and each equipped with seating, showers, and toilets for the home and away team as well as the umpires if possible.

In regards to facilities being used for Junior, Little League competition or National Youth Championships (U16), each change room should be at least 500 sq. feet, or 46.5 sq. metres. Each change room should have enough space to fit seating for at least 20-30 people. Depending on the level of play, each facility should have a minimum of 4 showers, 2 toilets and 2 wash basins.

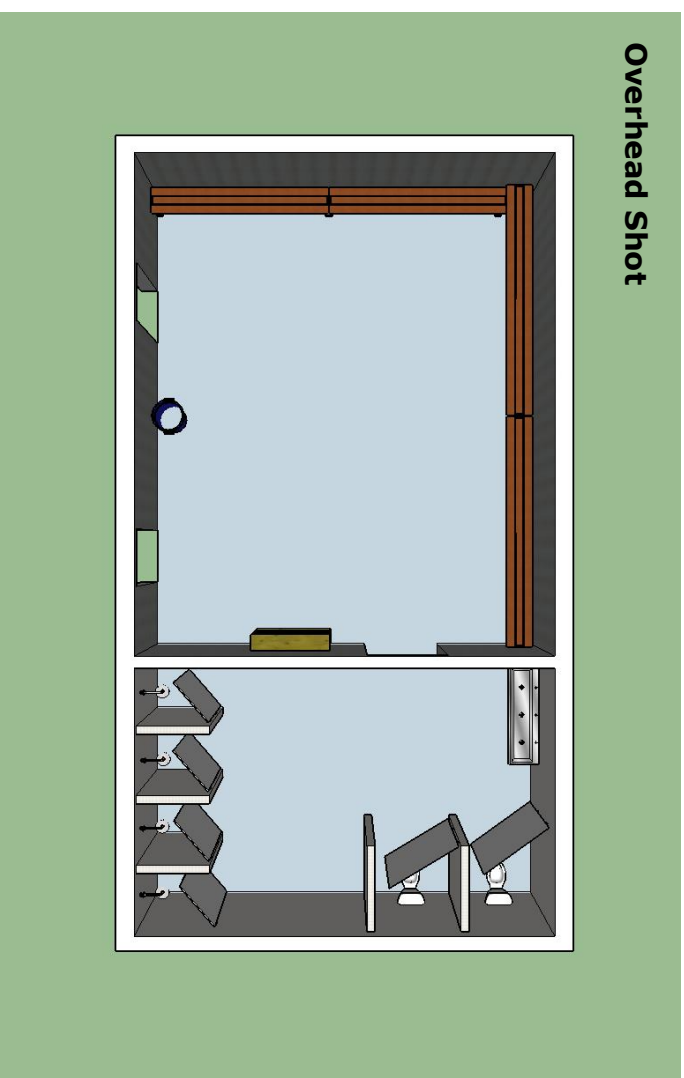
For facilities hosting Senior, Women Championships or higher, the change rooms should be a minimum 600 sq. feet or 56 sq. metres. This additional space allows for more amenities but the minimum for these facilities can be the same as for Junior, Little League competition or national youth championships (U16). It should be noted that these facilities must be configured to house both male and female participants.

The umpires change room should be close to 200 sq. feet, or 18.6 sq. metres in total. Space should allow for minimum of 8 people, with 2 showers, 1 toilet and 1 wash basin.

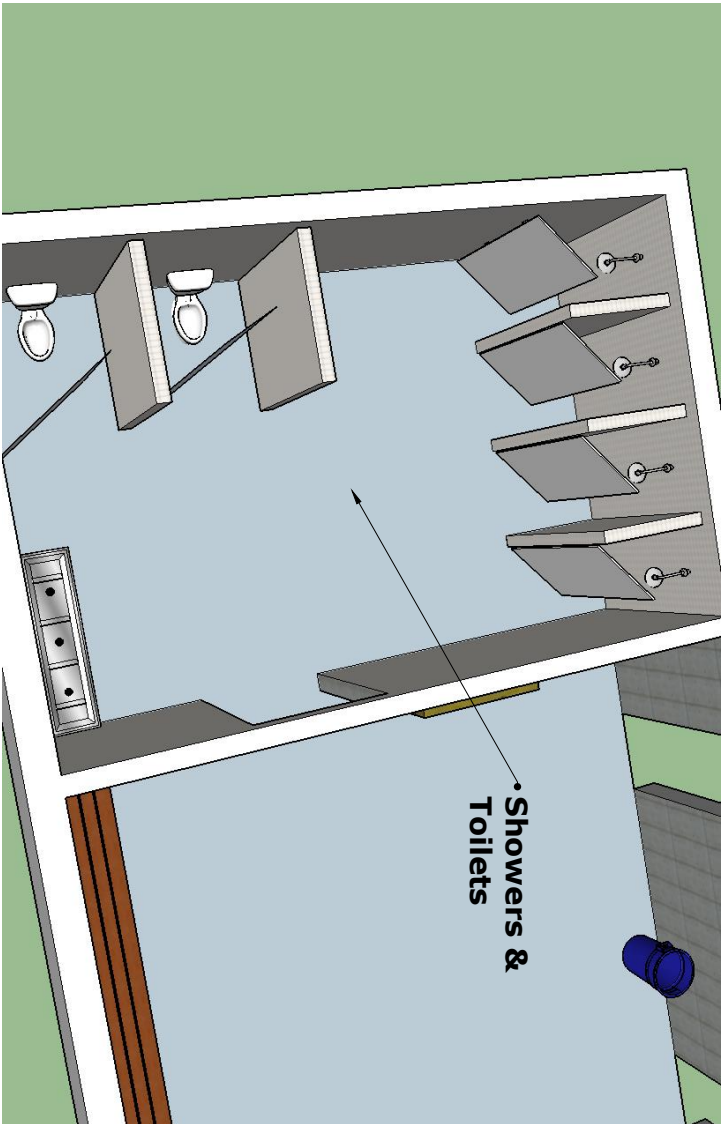




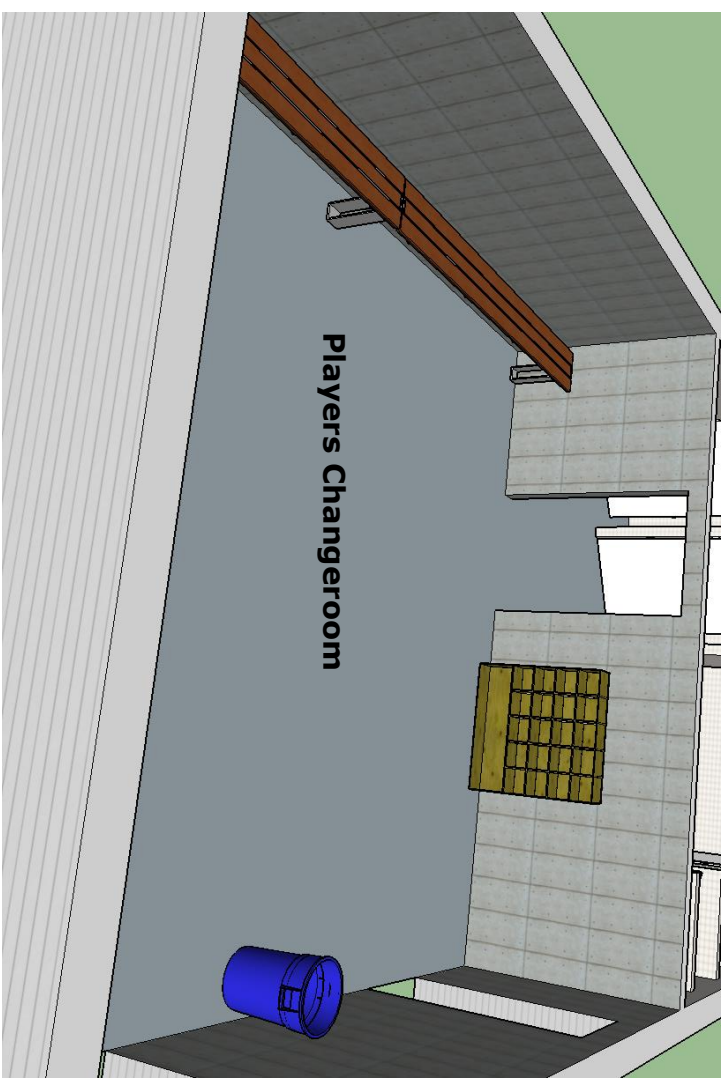
Standard Changerooms



Overhead Shot



• Showers & Toilets



Players Changeroom

Educational Resources

Baseball Tomorrow Fund: Field Maintenance Guide

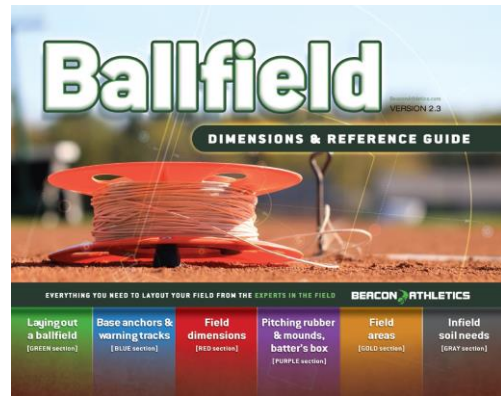
This document was created by Murray Cook and the Baseball Tomorrow Fund to provide a resource guide for the development and maintenance of baseball fields and/or facilities for baseball organizations involved in all levels of the game.



The Baseball Tomorrow Fund

Beacon Athletics: Ballfield Dimensions & Reference Guide

This guide is an extremely useful resource for laying out a ballfield for any club. It describes the layout and space needs for a field, how to probably build and maintain a warning track, setting the pitcher rubber as well as building the pitching mounds.



Baseball Australia Government Relations Best Practice Manual

This document outlines how a club can find and apply for government grants to assist in the development and growth of its facilities and players. However it does not guarantee that the club will be successful in the application, merely providing the access and assistance for the application process. It also specifies the how each club can find its local State and Federal members, which is important to know should the time come when financial assistance is required for the club. Finally the document provides examples of clubs apply for grants and being successful, and what they used the funds for.



Baseball Australia
Government Relations
Best Practices Manual