

A travel soccer team manager has to follow the Boy Scout motto-- Be Prepared.

As more fields are artificial surfaces & we play more games at the Soccerplex, we forget that we need to be ready to make a field playable when we are the home team. Here are things I have found useful in my 10 years of doing this and try to keep in a duffel bag in my car:

- A copy of the league rules -- very useful to remind yourself what to do when the ref does not show or there is lightning
- A copy of the FIFA rules -- very useful for many things including field dimensions [Teams playing small sided should also have field dimension diagram]
- A copy of the travel managers phone list
- A copy of Stoddert's DCPR permit for your field
- A box of 32 gallon trash bags. Stoddert rules at every DC permitted field -- we leave it cleaner than we found it and we haul away our trash. Also good emergency sandbags.
- Two empty sandbags -- can be used to secure goals when all else fails
- Two rolls of black electrical tape -- many uses including securing nets to goals & making emergency repairs to the base of corner flags.
- An extra roll of Velcro tape -- again securing nets to goals
- A bag of large zip ties -- again securing nets to goals or emergency repairs to the team tent
- A ball of nylon string for emergency repairs to the net
- A hand gardening shovel -- useful to fill the sandbags or to pick up after 4 legged litterbugs
- A hammer, long shanked screwdriver and a spike or 1' of re-bar. Useful for goal equipment repair and to make a hole for the goal feet. Goal repair is not hard once you know how -- you should come to Garage Day & see how it is done absent the pressure of an impending game start.
- 330' of cotton string and a half dozen tent pegs -- very useful to help paint straight lines. I put a split ring key ring on the end of my string and I wrap it on an electric extension cord reel. And I carry several rolls of string -- one at 330' and one at 210' and one about 60'.
- A 300' tape measure for those times when the lines are not there -- remember a 3-4-5 triangle forms a right angle at the junction of the 3 leg and the 4 leg.
- A case of white paint and a case of orange paint
- A paint wand
- Extra parts for the team tent -- order them online from the manufacturer.
- An extra pair of shin-guards
- First aid kit with single use icepacks. I also toss in a roll of plastic kitchen wrap which is useful to secure an icepack to a knee or ankle or shoulder

On wet days I toss in a bag or two of shredded hardwood mulch and a rake -- useful to absorb water on slick spots (Kitty litter just makes a mess) For bigger jobs, peat moss is the best. Know the closest sources of peat moss to your field.

Most of this stuff is inexpensive or should be a team expense.