



It's All In The Grade





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Surface Grade affects many aspects of an athletic field

- ❖ Drainage
- ❖ Playability
- ❖ Turf Management



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No other aspect of athletic field renovation or construction demands more scrutiny than the finished grade and the contractor who performs the work!



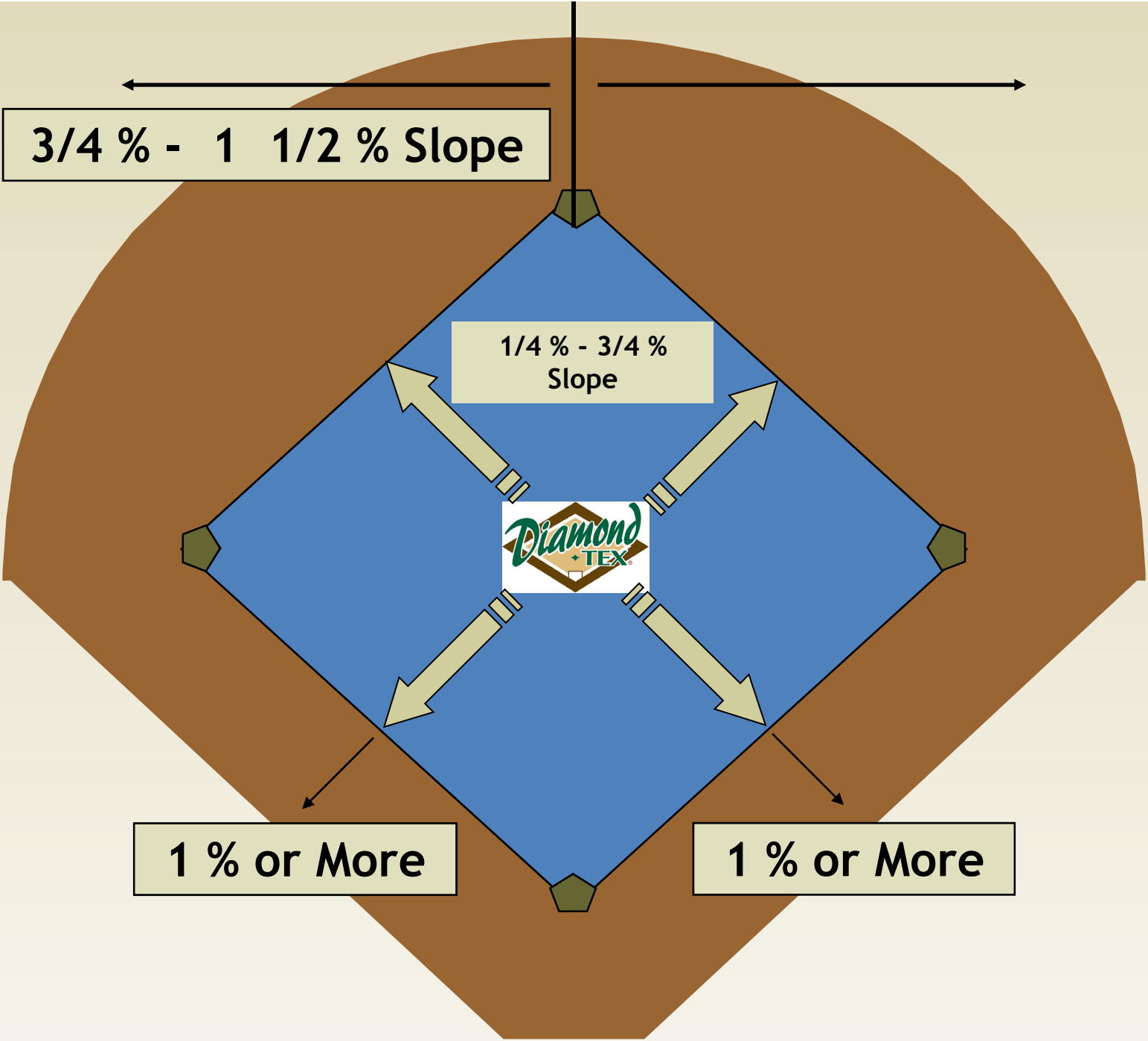
3/4 % - 1 1/2 % Slope

1/4 % - 3/4 % Slope



1 % or More

1 % or More





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- ❖ Compacted infield mix **does not perc**
- ❖ It sheds water off the skin onto the grass
- ❖ That is why the finished grade is critical
- ❖ Sub-surface drain systems under the skin are typically A waste of money



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Including...

- ❖ Drain tiles
- ❖ Crushed stone
- ❖ Sand
- ❖ French drains
- ❖ Mesh fabric liners



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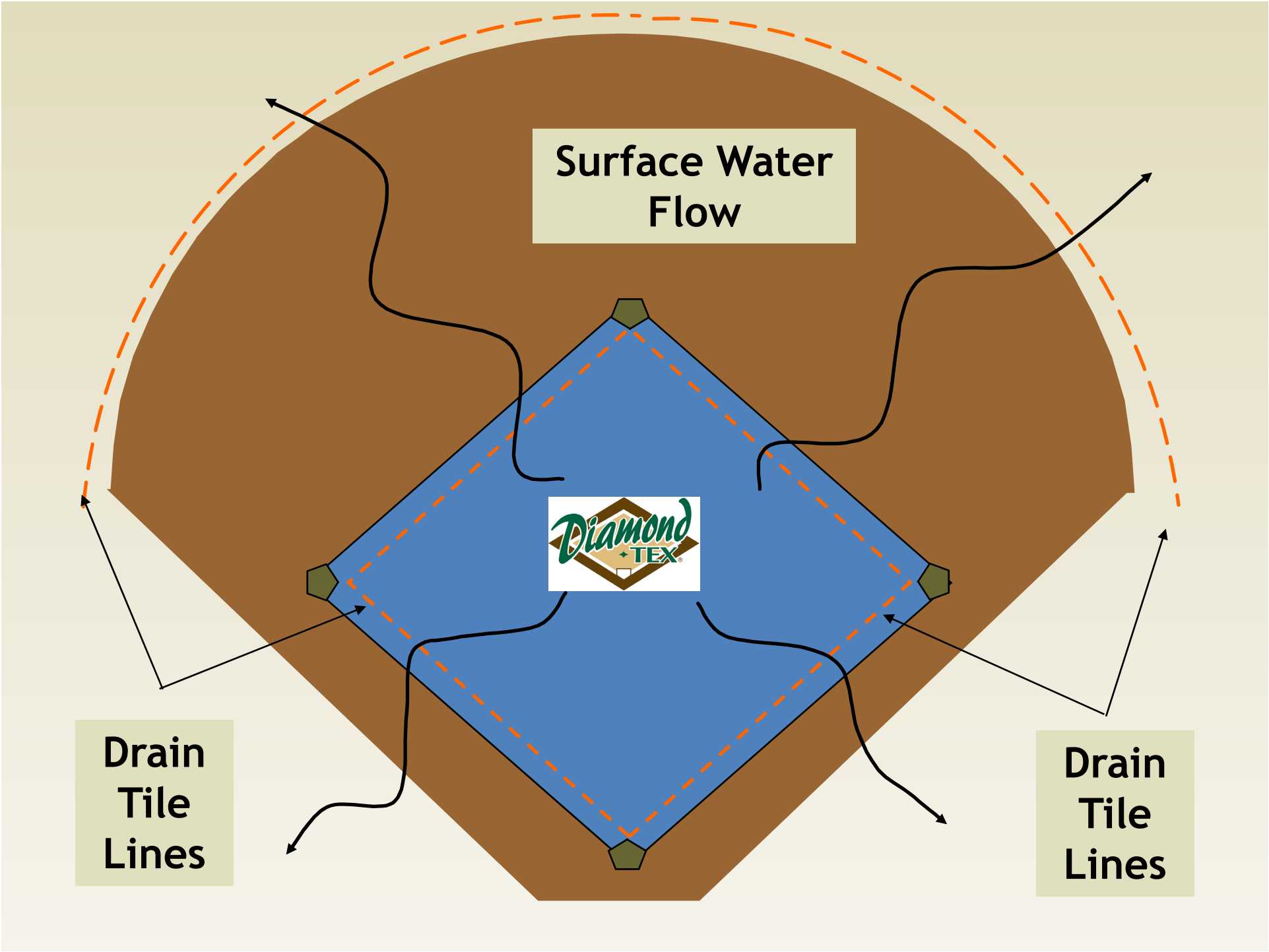
- ❖ Rain that is absorbed by the infield mix **evaporates**
- ❖ To speed the drying process - nail or spike the skin to allow more air circulation
- ❖ Drain systems may be effective if installed correctly

Surface Water Flow



Drain Tile Lines

Drain Tile Lines





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Laser Grading - (3) Types

- ❖ STANDARD GRADING checked manually with a rod that has a laser receiver attached to it
- ❖ LASER INDICATED GRADING relies on the equipment operator to manually raise or lower the grading blade according to what the blade mounted laser receiver indicates
- ❖ LASER CONTROLLED GRADING has the blade mounted laser receiver automatically adjust the grading blade height several times each second



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Grade Specifications

- ❖ Typically expressed as with $\frac{1}{4}$ " deviation (+/- $\frac{1}{8}$ "") over a given distance or over the plane of the athletic field
- ❖ Hire a licensed surveyor to check the finished grade when the contractor nears completion and before they have left the premises.
- ❖ Don't rely on the word of your contractor that the grade is correct.



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Choosing Finish Grade Contractors

- ❖ Low Bid... You get what you pay for
- ❖ Does the potential contractor specialize in field construction or renovation?
- ❖ Right equipment for the job?
- ❖ Past field renovation and building experience?
- ❖ **Ask for references**

You'll want references from up to five years back.

Was the field finished on time and on budget?

How has the field performed?



Maintaining Surface Grade



