

# CUSTOM FABRICATION | ATHLETIC FIELD PROTECTION



## PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Seattle Mariners needed custom infield protection covers for practice use on a professional baseball field.

## PROJECT GOAL

- Protect infield grass during practice without creating a slip or trip hazard.
- Use a lightweight panel system that could be handled and placed by grounds crews.
- Hold tight fabrication tolerances of +/- 1/2 inch, including curved panels matched to the grass cut.
- Meet a fast pre-season timeline ahead of the MLB season opener.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Custom-fabricated panels met the field geometry and tight tolerance requirements.
- Material selection balanced puncture resistance, traction, and player safety.
- Fast turnaround allowed the team to review production in person and prepare for opening day use.
- ITL support continued through the first installation, not just the fabrication step.

## Custom Fabrication for a Professional Field

For a professional baseball field, the cover system needed to do more than simply protect turf. It had to perform under cleats, move cleanly during setup, and avoid becoming too slick or too tacky during use. That balance mattered because the covers would sit directly in the path of player movement during practice.

ITL worked through the project as a custom fabrication challenge rather than an off-the-shelf product order. Panel size, handling weight, traction, and edge shape all had to be considered together. Curved panels were required to follow the cut of the grass, and the finished pieces needed to stay within a narrow +/- 1/2 inch tolerance.

## Material Review and Field Support

Several material options were reviewed, including knitted HDPE mesh, and PP-coated polyester mesh. The final choice was PVC dip-coated polyester mesh, as it needed to resist punctures from cleats while giving players dependable footing and keeping the covers manageable for the grounds crew.

Speed and collaboration helped make the project successful. ITL was able to meet the timeline and provide the custom work the project required. Decision-makers visited the Moses Lake production floor while the covers were being made, giving them a close look at the process and an opportunity to provide real-time feedback.

ITL was also on site for the first installation in preparation for the MLB season opener. That field support helped confirm fit, handling, and deployment before the covers were put into regular use.

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*Light weight panels for easy hand deployment*



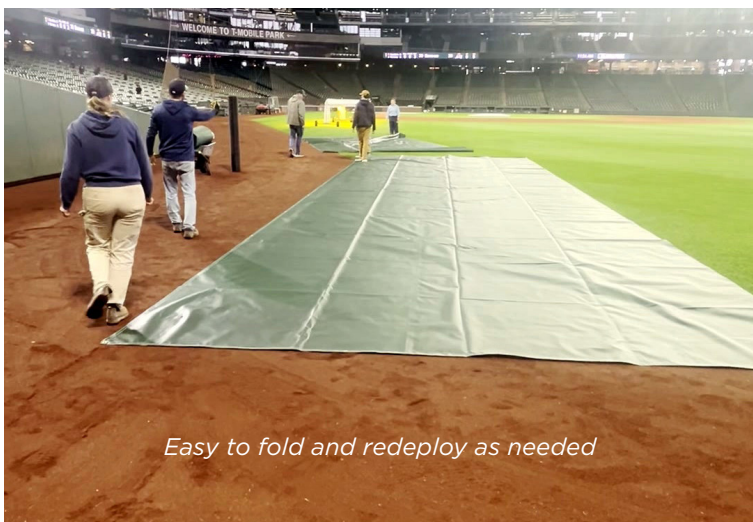
*Custom curve fitting to match turf path*



*Lay flat protection with properties to avoid slips/trips*



*Easily manageable panels*



*Easy to fold and redeploy as needed*



*On-site support to ensure success*



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