

MULTI-FIELD SCHEDULING
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There are many factors that help to produce an organized maintenance schedule. However at a municipal level the most important factor is sometimes totally out of our control.

The athletic director, park and rec. administrator, or coaches themselves usually do the scheduling of competition events on a playing field. It is also the most limiting factor in creating a maintenance schedule. It is our job as turf managers to maintain, prepare, and renovate the playing field as best we can in the given circumstances. Similar to our maintenance schedule an athletic schedule is ever changing, so our maintenance schedule must be flexible.

The most valuable tool in successfully maintaining an athletic field is long term planning. A helpful tool in organizing is a large monthly planner. This planner will help you visually identify your schedule breaks and opportunities. It is up to you to then take the necessary steps to schedule your maintenance (aeration, fertilization, overseeding, topdressing, etc.).

There are still many other keys to successfully maintaining your schedule though. Some other aspects to keep in mind are as follows:

Equipment

Keep equipment clean, maintained, and accessible. This will allow you to act quickly on any opportunity your event schedule permits.

Supplies

Keep enough supplies such as fertilizer, seed, and topsoil, on hand. This will again allow you to maintain your field quickly after events or during off days, with out having to go purchase or wait for a delivery, therefore losing precious time.

Manpower

It is extremely important to plan your labor accordingly, so that when your window of opportunity arrives you have the manpower to implement your plan. With out the labor to perform the work a plan is useless. Also it is advantageous to include the entire work crew in the planning and implementation of a maintenance program. This allows everyone to set and achieve goals as a group, thus creating pride, ownership, and team unity.

Everyone knows no plan is fool proof, but keep these factors in mind. Stay organized, be prepared, and keep all lines of communication flowing. Don't let a hectic schedule prevent you from having a beautiful quality athletic field.