

## **THE PROCESS AND BENEFITS OF BECOMING A CERTIFIED SPORTS FIELD MANAGER (CSFM)**

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In 1999 the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) put the final touches on a new certification program for sports field managers. The association, and the dedicated members of the certification committee, made development of the CSFM program a priority for STMA. This presentation details the process through which a sports field manager becomes certified.

The purpose of the Certified Sports Field Manager, (CSFM) program is to increase professionalism in the sports turf management industry. This program was designed to define a level of expertise that all of us should, and can, strive to achieve. The program promotes and draws attention to the qualified professionals that make up our industry. Certified Sports Field Managers will be recognized as motivated professionals, interested in promoting their profession and its members to user groups and the public. The roster of Certified Sports Field Managers is at 30 as of this writing.

A combination of education and experience is required to qualify to take the written CSFM exam. STMA has developed a point system that credits accumulated experience and formal education, putting both into a formula that determines eligibility. A total of 40 points is required to qualify for the exam. The combination of experience and education is required to secure the points needed.

The formal test is a 4-part, multiple choice written exam. A grade of 80% passing is required for each of the 4- parts to achieve certification. The CSFM test has separate exams on Agronomics, Pest Management, Administration, and Sports Specific Field Management. If one score, of the four portions, is less than the required 80%, that portion of the test will need to be re-administered within a year. The test can be taken at the annual STMA conference or can be administered by a proctor at an approved testing site more convenient for the “test taker”.

Upon certification, CSFM’s begin a process of gathering Continuing Education Units (CEU’s), and Industry Service Points (ISP’s). CEU’s are earned through attendance at educational conferences and training sessions. ISP’s are earned through community service, leading education sessions, being publicly active nationally and locally in the sports turf management industry. CEU’s and ISP’s are accumulated in three-year blocks, and evaluated to maintain CSFM status.

The CSFM program has many personal and professional benefits for the qualified CSFM. As a CSFM you will be recognized for your commitment to stay a leader in this industry. The element of leadership is forced on the CSFM’s, which benefits local sports field managers and facilities.

The employer of a CSFM benefits from the commitment to excellence and leadership that the CSFM must have. The employer benefits from the CSFM’s need to stay current with new technology and services.

The CSFM program for STMA is considering adding other designated certified levels. Is a certified sports field technician, architect, or consultant somewhere on the near horizon? Call STMA headquarters at (800) 323-3875, or visit the website at <[www.sportsturfmanager.com](http://www.sportsturfmanager.com)> to learn more about the exciting certification program.