

# Be Prepared

A pending litigation involving a ball player who was rendered a paraplegic due to a neck injury emphasises the need for records of field maintenance and playing conditions. A file of paper will carry more weight when presented to a judge than the memories and impressions of a score of witnesses a year or more after the event.

The City of Cambridge Community Services Dept., is an example of a serious effort to maintain a file of records. They are in the form of an Inspection Summary sheet which is completed weekly by their staff for each sports field. They also provide the user with a Concerns Summary sheet where the user can register complaints, and which allows dialogue to develop to resolve the concerns.

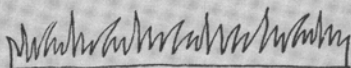
A record of the date of each maintenance operation, such as mowing, machine used, topdressing, coring, pesticide application, etc., would complete the record file. Keeping the file for up to three years before shredding would be a sound procedure.

Some might suggest these records add to the deluge of paper we face today. The records, however, may save a million or more dollars in a litigation proceedings in the future.

With the permission of Don Bridgman of Cambridge Community Services, we reproduce their forms as an example of the type of information which may be of value in a litigation proceedings.

## GRASS CLIPPINGS

Bunch grass type turf species such as perennial ryegrass, tall fescue and annual bluegrass spread primarily, if not exclusively, by tillering. If the plant populating is sufficiently dense a uniform turf will develop. At low seeding rates or where winter kill has reduced the density a clumpy, non uniform turf will result.



### CITY OF CAMBRIDGE COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT SPORTSFIELD INSPECTION SUMMARY

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Checked by: \_\_\_\_\_

Condition	Comments
Backstop Fencing: _____	
Foul Line Fencing: _____	
Outfield Fencing: _____	
Goal Posts: _____	
Foul Posts: _____	
Turf: _____	
Infield Area: _____	
Player Benches: _____	
Line Box: _____	
Lighting: _____	
Litter: _____	
Pitcher's Rubber: _____	
Home Plate: _____	

### CITY OF CAMBRIDGE COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT SPORTSFIELD CONCERNS SUMMARY SHEET

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Park: \_\_\_\_\_

Sportsfield: \_\_\_\_\_ Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Group Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Condition	Comments
Backstop Fencing: _____	
Foul Line Fencing: _____	
Outfield Fencing: _____	
Goal Posts: _____	
Foul Posts: _____	
Turf: _____	
Infield Areas: _____	
Outfield Areas: _____	
Player Benches: _____	
Bleachers: _____	
Line Boxes: _____	
Lighting: _____	
Litter: _____	
Pitcher's Rubber: _____	
Home Plate: _____	
Changeroom/Washroom: _____	
General Site Condition: _____	
Other Concerns: _____	
<b>FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:</b>	
Action Taken: _____	
Day Work Completed: _____	
Checked by: _____	