Laser grading is a term in the athletic field construction industry used to describe the process of moving soil with a grading mechanism equipped with an automated control. Laser guided controls can be mounted on any machinery including track hoes, trenchers, motor graders, bulldozers, tractors and infield groomers. In fact, anything with a motor and hydraulic supply can be mounted with an automated laser control system. There is also a mast that holds the laser receiver which receives the signal from the sloped laser and sends it to a control box. The control box sends the signal back into an electric hydraulic valve that controls the blade that is grading. The signal is instant and in real time. As the tractor moves across the field, the box is making cuts and fills leveling soil giving you the safest playing surface and best drainage. In addition to the tow-type box blade, there are also 3-point hitch versions of the laser guided systems available. Unfortunately, they are more sensitive to the terrain. For instance, the front wheel gets stuck into a hole and moves the box blade faster than the system can respond requiring the operator to have more responsibility on the finished surface.

The field is laser graded. All the soil is in-place and you balanced the drainage which are the biggest issues on any field. Under-drainage is also a major concern requiring the operator to have more responsibility on the final result on any playing field should make it a mandatory trade to be included on any field renovation or construction. You do not let plumbers do electrical work, so why would you let a site contractor do electrical work, including them on all field construction projects. When renovating and constructing fields, properly sized equipment and trained operators make the difference.

In summary, automated laser grading guarantees safety and improved drainage which are the biggest issues on any field. Understanding the method and how it directly impacts the finished result on any playing field should make it a mandatory trade to be included on any field renovation or construction. You do not let plumbers do electrical work, so why would you let a site contractor do electrical work, including them on all field construction projects. When renovating and constructing fields, properly sized equipment and trained operators make the difference.

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