Whether it is for function or decoration, lines and logos personalize your fields and give your team the home field advantage. Almost all sports and games played on turf or packed clay require some form of lines or markings to help define boundaries, and assist the officials in making correct calls. Lines help the participants perform best by bringing order and strategy to the game. These markings are usually painted or marked with a non-caustic pulverized limestone. Here are some things that I have learned from other sports field managers that help me set lines.

Measurements: Sports require accurate measurements. Tape measures are more precise than measuring wheels. Surveying instruments are the most exact and may be required at the higher levels of the sport. “Square” or 90° corners can be made without surveying instruments by using the 3-4-5 method. Where you want to make a corner, make one line perpendicular to another. On one line, measure out from the corner 30 feet. On the adjacent line, starting from the same point, measure out 40 feet. Draw a line from your 30 foot mark to the 40 foot mark. The result should be 50 feet. If not, adjust either line so that there is a 50 foot measurement from the 30 and 40 foot marks.

Dry Line Marking: For human safety, always use a non-burning, non-caustic marking material such as pulverized limestone. Avoid marking turfgrass with a dry marking material as it might injure turf, modify the soil or over time, create a ridge on the playing surface that could become hazardous to players. Dry marking materials work best on bare soil or “infield dirt”. Dry line markers are similar to a drop fertilizer spreader. The marking apparatus features a narrow opening that is the width of the line and can be operated by one person. Other types of markers include a trough type that can be several feet long for marking base paths or shorter for marking batting boxes. These are usually used in the higher levels of baseball or softball and can require 2 people to handle.

Field Marking Paint: Paints consist of liquid (or solvent), color (or pigment), sticker (or binder) and other additives such as a fast drying agent. Sports field marking paints are usually water based latex acrylics. Petroleum distillate based paints or volatile organic compounds (VOC paints) can be injurious to plant tissues. Field marking paint is available in the forms of aerosol spray paint in inverted cans and bulk paint in 1-5 gallon containers. Bulk paint may be premixed ready to use or it may need to be diluted with water in some ratio.

Painting Equipment: The most basic field paint equipment is the paintbrush and roller, simple and effective but time consuming. Many sports field managers with only a few sports fields use the inverted aerosol spray paint can holder machine. This is a tool that no sports field manager should be without. It is helpful for touchups, for painting contrasting colors quickly and as a backup for when the primary paint machine breaks down. Most sports field managers use some form of a powered paint machine. These include sprayers ranging from a CO2 tank units to gasoline powered compressor or pumps to electric pump models. Push, self propelled and riding paint machines are available. Be sure that your machine is kept clean; in good repair and have spare parts on hand.

(continued on page 5)
Fenoxaprop may be applied at rates ranging from 0.016-0.17 lbs/A (3.5-39.0 fl. oz Acclaim/Acre) depending on the stage of crabgrass growth and established turfgrass species. For example, 4-5 tiller crabgrass may be treated with fenoxaprop at 0.17 lbs/A (39.0 fl oz Acclaim Extra/Acre) in perennial ryegrass and tall fescue whereas no more than 0.12 lbs of fenoxaprop (28.0 fl oz Acclaim Extra/Acre) may be applied to 3-4 tiller crabgrass in Kentucky bluegrass turf.

Following applications of fenoxaprop, tall fescue and perennial ryegrass may be seeded immediately. Following germination of tall fescue and perennial ryegrass, fenoxaprop should not be applied until seedlings have matured for 1 month. Of the cool season turfgrasses used on sportsfields in New Jersey, Kentucky bluegrass is the most susceptible to phytotoxic effects associated with fenoxaprop. For example, when utilizing fenoxaprop rates greater than 0.04 lbs/A (9.0 fl oz Acclaim Extra/Acre), Kentucky bluegrass seedlings must be at least 3 growing months old before fenoxaprop can be applied. Additionally, 21 waiting days should be allowed following the application of fenoxaprop prior to seeding Kentucky bluegrass.

Due to the complexity of Drive and Acclaim Extra labeling with respect to crabgrass growth stage susceptibility, individual turfgrass species herbicide tolerances, and turfgrass seeding timings, pesticide labels must be thoroughly read and understood prior to the application of these materials.

Brad Park is Sports Turf Res. and Ed. Coor., Rutgers Univ.; SFMANJ Board Member; and Editor, SFMANJ Update

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### SFMANJ Field of the Year Contest 2007

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey is announcing its annual Field of the Year (FOY) contest.

**ELIGIBILITY:**
- Must be a current member of SFMANJ
- Only school and park/recreation fields are eligible
- Must be a natural grass field/fields

**CRITERIA:**
- Award will be presented basis:
  - Pleasability and appearance of the playing surfaces
  - Five 5x7 color photos are needed before photo if possible
  - Describe your maintenance program and what you did to improve your field
  - Describe your budget for this field
  - Feel free to have sports groups in your photo

**SUBMITTING YOUR ENTRY:**
Entries are due to be submitted, mail and must be received by September 29, 2007. Entries are limited to 10 color photos. Please include the name, location and owner of the facility along with your name, position, and contact number.

**Mail to:**
SFMANJ, 2007 FOY Contest
PO Box 171
Attleboro, NJ 07009

**AWARDS:**
Winners will be honored with a plaque at New Jersey Turfgrass and Landscape Conference & Expo in December 2007 and will be featured in an article in SFMANJ newsletter. The winner will also receive a two-night stay at the Trump Taj Mahal, Atlantic City City and three day education and trade show admission at Expo 2007.

**NOTE:**
Photos will not be returned and may be used on SFMANJ website and promotional settings.

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Don Savard is a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM); Certified Grounds Manager (CGM); Director, Athletic Facilities and Grounds, Salesianum School; and SFMANJ Board Member