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This newsletter is the official quarterly publication of the
Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey.

For information regarding this newsletter, contact:
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SFMANJ does not necessarily support the opinions of those reflected in the following articles.
Several Sports Field Manager Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ) Board Members recently attended the National Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) Conference in Daytona Beach, Florida. Our New Jersey Chapter was once again well represented by both members and directors. Our Chapter Executive Secretary, Debbie Savard, was given an opportunity to share her perspectives on chapter building and outlined her role as an integral part of SFMANJ operations during the Chapter Officers Training Session. Debbie paved the way for the New Jersey Chapter to assume a leadership role in chapter building as we move forward. This year, SFMANJ was recognized on a national stage for its efforts as we have maintained a cohesive membership, increased financial health, efficiently directed educational outreach and incorporated new technology to better serve our membership. I strongly believe that this is due to an increasing number of members and directors who are stepping-up and becoming more involved in chapter activities and operations. The Board of Directors has been receiving a great deal of feedback from the membership. This exchange of ideas has been instrumental in steering SFMANJ in the right direction. On behalf of the SFMANJ Board of Directors, I sincerely thank you for your contributions to our chapters’ success.

We’re clearly off to a great start this year and we want to keep that momentum going. SFMANJ will continue its annual tradition of sponsoring a Spring Field Day and Trade Show. This year’s Spring Event will be held on Tuesday, April 2 and will be hosted by the Facilities Management Staff at the Northern Burlington County Regional School District. The Board of Directors jumped at the opportunity to showcase this well-maintained public school facility and give members and other interested attendees a chance to visit high quality playing surfaces. Sports Field Manager Bernard Luongo has made many efforts to improve the safety, playability and overall quality of the Sports Fields at this Facility by working closely with School Administrators and Management Staff. SFMANJ is happy to assist Bernard and Staff in coordinating several renovation projects that will further enhance the playing characteristics of these fields. The educational program will highlight effective methods of amending skin soil surface profiles, laser grading infield skins, topdressing and interpreting soil test results.

The program will then place emphasis on maintaining field improvements over long-term periods by demonstrating strategies used by professional groundskeepers. This will show attendees how to get the most for their money after investing in field renovation projects. School Groundskeepers are among those that continue to face the challenges of pest control at their facilities. The program will include an informative talk about some of the effective low-impact products that are available to field managers and grounds personnel to combat pests while still maintaining compliance with New Jersey School IPM laws. The key component of pest management on school grounds and all facilities alike is to maintain proper cultural practices for healthy turf. Academics from Rutgers and the County College of Morris will explain the theory behind such practices in their presentations. Speaking of challenges, one of the most difficult tasks a field manager may face is laying-out and marking women’s lacrosse fields. You asked for it and now you have it. By popular demand, you will be able to learn some effective strategies for simplifying the mark-out process from a Certified Sports Field Manager. Be sure to join us for the Spring Field Day Event this year. It always proves to be a great event and all in attendance will be able to take some valuable new knowledge home with them at the end of the day. I look forward to seeing you there and catching-up with you. If you have any questions or concerns please contact us. We’re here to help.

Matt Olivi is Sports Turf Manager, Piscataway Board of Education, Piscataway, NJ; and SFMANJ President
New and Renewed SFMANJ Members

Continued from page 3

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The Women’s Lacrosse field configuration is probably the most challenging field marking layout. It involves straight lines, circles, arcs and 90° and 45° angles. The official NCAA rulebook directions can be confusing, especially when the units of measurement for the field and the crease use feet and inches, yards and meters—all on the same field layout! The drawings provided in the rulebook are appear cluttered and are hard to understand. Here is a simplified approach.

Before you begin, obtain a metric tape measure that shows centimeters. This means that you will be laying out this field in metric. It might seem strange at first, but remember that these are just units of measurement. Metric is perfectly acceptable and you will not have do any math conversions.

1. First, establish the rectangle field with string lines. Women’s Lacrosse, like a soccer pitch does not have one official length and width dimension. The rectangle will be between 101-128 meters long on the side lines and 55-64 meters wide on the end lines. After you have made sure the rectangle has squared corners, paint the rectangle with a solid line.

2. Make the center circle. Locate the point at the center of the field where the center circle will be made. Do this by intersecting 2 string lines perpendicular to each other from the middle of both end lines and both sidelines. From the point where the 2 perpendicular string lines intersect, make a 9 meter radius and paint the center circle. On the string parallel to the end lines paint a solid 3 meter line centered in the circle. Leave the string line that runs the length of the field because you will use it in step 5. Roll up the string that connects the 2 sidelines because you will use it in step 4.

3. The goal lines are parallel to and 9 meters from the end lines. Mark the goal line with flags on both sidelines and repeat this procedure on the other end of the field. Do not paint the goal lines yet.

4. Now, make the restraining line. From each flag, measure and mark 27 meters down the sideline towards the center of the field. Connect the marks with a string line across the field parallel with the end line. Paint a solid line. Repeat this procedure on the other end of the field.

5. Now, create the crease areas. Starting at one end of the field, run a string line to connect the goal line flags. It shall be parallel to both the end line and the restraining line. It will intersect the string line running the length of the field (connecting the midpoints of both end lines). The center of the goal line at the point where the 2 strings intersect. Make a mark on the center point.

6. Mark out the goal circle using a 2.6 meter radius starting 6 meters from the center point. With the center of the field at your back, consider the circle to be like a compass, (see illustration above) where North is at the top, South is closest to you, West is on your left and East is on your right. If the circle is correct, paint it.

7. Mark out the 12 meter fan using a 14.6 meter radius starting from the center point and moving from West to South to East (The fan is 12 meters from the circumference of the goal circle and the goal circle radius is 2.6 meters from the center point). Paint the semicircle fan and the straight lines either side of the goal circle leaving the goal circle empty except for a line which will be painted within the goal cage between the upright poles of the goal structure. The 8 meter arc causes confusion for many people. The arc itself is concentric to the goal circle and the 12 meter fan, but there are 2 sector lines that emanate at 45° angles from a point at the top of the goal circle which we consider as north.

Illustrations by Debbie Savard
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The Rutgers Turf Club would like to thank Rutgers University, Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ), and Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) for making our visit to Daytona Beach, Florida to attend the 2013 STMA Conference and Exhibition possible. Without these organizations we would have not had the opportunity to experience the National Conference and Student Challenge that we enjoy taking part-in to represent the wonderful program here at Rutgers University as well as the State of New Jersey in which we call home.

The Rutgers Turf Club sent two teams of four students to compete in the Student Challenge. We also attended the education sessions and industry trade show. The conference was a great way for students interested in pursuing careers in sports turf to network and interact with many in the industry. Five students were first-time upperclassmen attendees and will be able to compete and attend again in the future. We believe that the STMA Conference allows for wonderful student activities and networking potential as well as an additional tool for those who have a chance to attend the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) conference later in the semester in which a blend of the experiences learned from sports turf and golf maintenance can be applied to further research for the industry.

Our first day was not limited to travel. We were able to arrive in Daytona Beach and have time to sign-in and attend the Student Networking Session along with the Welcome Reception which had a great keynote speaker this year. Over the next few days we attended many talks that were specifically designed for students. One session entailed two professional sports field managers and an international university professor. Darian Daily from the Cincinnati Bengals was one of the many sports field managers from the pro level to parks and recreation level that attended the conference and gave a wonderful talk. Darian gave a presentation titled, “The ‘Real’ Story of Being an NFL Sports Field Manager.” During his presentation he spoke of his journey that we all will soon make and how he ended up with the Cincinnati Bengals. He also detailed many of the daily activities a sports field manager performs. His presentation described how one must continue to learn and speak to people to be well informed beyond graduating. Other professional sports field manager, Luke Yoder and John Turnour, gave presentations titled, “What it Takes to be an MLB Field Groundskeeper.” Throughout his speech he described his daily activities. It was very good to see how three professional managers in different sports share similar ideas and tactics to ensure high performance fields. Dr. Jason Kruse also gave us a wonderful speech about how students should take their first steps into the sports field industry. He simplified the steps of working in the industry and the steps it takes to work your way up the competitive ladder in providing high quality athletic fields which in turn lead to high quality performance.

The trade shows allowed for students to see companies and meet people from those companies that fuel the sports turf industry. These are the people that help make our profession a reality. Talking to these companies and seeing new products is one of the most exciting aspects every year.

A primary reason for us going to Daytona Beach was to compete for our school in the Student Challenge. We competed against over 30 teams and placed 6th which consisted of (Kyle Genova, Nick Delmar, Kenneth Macnish, and Erik Taylor). Our other team of (Greg Benz, Henry Qu, Tyler Astor, and Jason Sun) also did well placing 13th out of over 30 teams. Scores were very close and we were pleased with our performance. The Student Challenge exam is made-up of multiple choice, short answer and identification that include turfgrass, weeds, insects, diseases, soils and equipment parts. The Turf Club is eager to get back to STMA in 2014 and compete again for Rutgers.

Once again we would like to thank Rutgers University, SFMANJ, STMA, and Rutgers Turf Club for enabling us to attend. It is always an honor to be able to represent our university, turf program, and all the people we are lucky enough to work beside and learn from. Thank you!

Erik Taylor is Undergraduate Student, Rutgers University; and 2013 STMA Student Challenge Team Member representing Rutgers University
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