

Certification Program Almost Here

STMA's Certification Program is in its final stages of development as this newsletter goes to print. The Committee has just a few more points remaining for the STMA Board's review and approval. Then it's off to our legal counsel for one last review of those points. The majority of the materials included in the program have already passed these hurdles. Once printing of all the materials is completed, the applicant packets will be sent to all STMA members and to others upon request.

By the time you read this, the second session of "testing the test" will have been completed.

Some key details of the program follow.

Included in the Certification packet you will be receiving is a credentialing information booklet, which outlines the basics of the Certification program and gives the procedures to follow in making the application. The application forms and education worksheets also will be included in the packet.

An important part of the packet is the "List of Competencies" in the areas of agronomics, pest management, administration and sports specific field man-

agement. The List of Competencies was developed by the Certification Committee in "need to know" areas that relate to the four defined segments of study and of testing. The statement, "In order to qualify for the designation Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM), you should be able to:" is followed by the specific competencies in that area. Reviewing these competencies should make it easier for each individual to determine in which area or areas further study or training is needed - or not needed, whichever the case may be.

In order to qualify for the test, an individual is required to have achieved a minimum of 40 points earned through a combination of education and experience. It is NOT possible to achieve the 40-point minimum through education points alone. It is possible to achieve the 40-point minimum through experience points alone. The majority of those achieving the 40-point minimum will do so through a combination of education and experience points.

The education points awarded for degree programs are listed in the packet. Other Educational Programs may qualify for points. Information on such programs can be included with the application for review and possible point assignment, or preliminary questions can be directed to STMA Headquarters.

Sports turf management experience will be recorded on the application form. Experience points are earned at the rate of 1 point per year for a sports turf crew member; at 3 points per year for work in supervisory turf management positions; and at 6 points per year for the top position as sports turf manager.

Completed applications will be sent to STMA Headquarters. These applications will be reviewed and applicants notified of their status within 60 days of the receipt of the application forms by Headquarters.

Once all qualifications for application are met, and the appropriate fees received, the qualified applicant will be scheduled for the written multiple choice test covering the four major sections noted above. These will be proctored tests conducted at accepted assessment centers so that each qualified applicant can sit for the test as it fits their schedule. In addition, the test will be offered under similar supervised conditions in conjunction with each STMA Annual Conference beginning with the 11th annual Conference and Exhibition to be held January 12 - 16, 2000, in St. Louis, Missouri.



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