

# SPORTS TURF MANAGER

...for better, safer Sports Turf

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## President's Message

Finally, at last for me and I am sure for many others, the best time of the year has arrived—Spring. After what seems like an eternity, we can get out and get going on all those plans hatched over the winter to get our fields in top condition.

It seems one of the annual rites of Spring is minor sports and rep groups, varsity and high school teams, along with adult leagues, who try and jump the season and begin play on fields before permits, or permission has been granted.

Each year groups want to play earlier and earlier which makes it very difficult to complete early season renovation programs. Groups starting their season without authorization must also think of the liability and potential for injury. In many cases fields are not ready for a variety of reasons. Holes may not be filled or sprinkler heads may be slightly raised which cause tripping hazards. Severe lips not yet flattened on ball diamonds can lead to balls taking dangerous hops, and/or falls by backpedalling players. Home plates and pitchers' mounds may not have been properly adjusted, and foul/light poles may not yet be padded. Coaches and league officials must be made aware—in writing, of the risks involved and potential injury to participants by starting play earlier than allowed.

Another annual rite of spring for STA members is receipt of your annual mem-

bership dues. I am sure by now many of you will have received your invitation to once again join us in promoting better, safer sports turf. Please consider the benefits of belonging to the STA and being part of a network of professional individuals engaged in sports turf management. Being part of an association is all about value, and if you agree with our mission and feel that you receive value from your membership, I invite you to continue supporting your Association.

I would like to thank all STA members who attended the OTS this past January. Your participation allowed us to receive just over \$10,000 as our share of the revenue. Thanks again to everyone who attended our sessions and indicated their STA membership on the application forms.

In closing, I would like to congratulate Pam Charboneau who is scheduled to be elected president of the International Turfgrass Society at the 1997 conference in Sydney. Effective July 1, 1997, she will assume the Chairperson duties in organizing the International Turf Conference to be held in Toronto in 2001. Congratulations Pam!

I wish all members a pleasant spring and summer and much success in their athletic field management programs this year.

Wishing you better, safer sports turf.

—Christopher Mark