

Invaluable Resource Produced by the STA

The objective of the recently released *Athletic Field Construction Manual* is to provide specifications and guidelines for the design and construction of grass athletic fields. The Manual is designed to assess the requirements for the field and to present the specifications for construction of the field to meet those requirements. It applies to all types of athletic fields that require a natural turf surface on all or part of the play area.

Bringing uniformity to the construction of grass athletic fields, this manual is long overdue as a staple reference for those in the sports turf industry. It establishes standards for the design and construction of the root zone. The standards are based on a classification system (1-5) for the athletic field which is primarily based on the root zone material and the provision of drainage, irrigation and lights. Also included are permitting hours and maintenance

costs for field categories; a checklist to evaluate the condition of existing fields; and more than 20 diagrams outlining the approved field dimensions for most field sports using a turf surface.

An invaluable, unique reference manual that takes a systematic design-oriented approach to the construction of natural turf sport fields based on a field classification system and the anticipated calibre of play and turf wear by user groups. ~ D. Murray Cameron OALA

Table 2.2.6 A summary of the design requirements for the five field categories (excerpt from Section 2 of the AFCM).

DESIGN REQUIREMENT	ONE	TWO	THREE	FOUR	FIVE
Soil (% silt + clay)	<8.0	<25	25-40	>40	All Soils
Sub-Surface Drainage System	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Irrigation	Yes	Yes	Optional	Optional	No
Lights	Yes	Yes	Optional	Optional	No

Athletic Field Construction Manual

CLASSIFICATION | SPECIFICATIONS | FIELD EVALUATION | FIELD DIMENSIONS

