

STMA Advisory Bulletins

DETERMINING THE RIGHT SPORTS FIELD & NEEDED EQUIPMENT



Foreword & Further Information

The Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) has developed a series of advisory bulletins on synthetic and natural fields. The bulletins are sequenced to provide information and resources throughout the process of selecting and building a new sports field. Often decisions that seem small and insignificant in the short-term can affect the quality of the field for years to come. Visit their website at www.stma.org to access these and other titles referenced.

1. DETERMINING THE RIGHT SPORTS FIELD FOR YOUR ATHLETES

Your organization has decided to build a new sports field. This is an excellent decision that will benefit your athletes, the fans and the community. With sports participation and viewership on the rise, the focus on fitness, and the desire for environmentally friendly recreational venues, now is an ideal time to build a sports field.

As a sports turf manager, you are responsible for the quality of the new field. Most importantly, your goal is to manage it to a high level of playability and safety, thus reducing an athlete's likelihood of suffering a surface related injury. The first step is to ensure that your organization has decided to build the most suitable field based on use, budget, management expertise, and many other factors specific to your situation.

The answers to these assessment questions should help to guide your organization to make the best choice for your athletes.

SUGGESTED SPORTS FIELD ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS

Overall Project Questions

1. Are there Certified Sports Field Managers*/sports field managers available for this project? Yes No

*The Certified Sports Field Manager is a certification program sponsored by the Sports Turf Managers Association (US). This program is available to members of the STA. Please contact us for further information.

2. Will the sports field manager be involved with the field selection and construction process? Yes No

3a) How many events are you planning to hold on the field? b) How often will the field be used (games & events/wk)?

4. What sports will be played on it?

5. How many non-sporting events will be held on this field?

6. Will the field use increase over time? Yes No

7. If you increase the number of events on the field are you able to allocate the necessary funding to provide the additional maintenance? Yes No

8a) When (what time of year) will the bulk of your events be held? b) How does the event schedule overlay with weather limitations patterns?

9a) How many other athletic fields at your institution do you manage? b) Are any synthetic? Yes No

10. Have you set an appropriate budget for the number of events you are planning? Yes No

11. What time-frame has been established for completion of this project?