

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?

12. What are the long-term expectations and goals?

13. What is your estimated project budget?

14a) What is the projected capital budget (usually includes equipment with purchase costs of \$1,000+)? b) Projected operational budget (includes all inputs, water and labour costs)?

15. Have the safety concerns for the field type been identified and discussed? Yes No

16a) Have you selected an appropriate site for the installation of the field? Yes No b) Does it have a north, south, east or west orientation? North South East West

17a) Do you have standards set for quality, field conditions and safety? Yes No b) Have you set thresholds for which you are willing to accept liability? Yes No c) Have you identified the potential health issues associated with each field type? Yes No

18. Do you have an appropriate budget for the maintenance to provide the standards noted in question 17? Yes No

19. When was the last new field installed at your institution (may indicate the projected life expectancy of the new field)?

20. Have you read/are you familiar with ST-MA's "Guide to Synthetic & Natural Turfgrass for Sports Fields: Selection, Construction & Maintenance Considerations"? Yes No

21a) Have nearby institutions at your level of competition installed new fields recently? Yes No

b) Were they synthetic? Yes No

22. What is the security plan for the area during construction? After construction?

Natural Fields

1a) Do you allow appropriate time for renovations, re-work or repairs to your fields by not scheduling the field during these times? Yes No. b) Does your budget allow for the items above? Yes No

2. Will you be able to rest the field during the prime growing season? Yes No

3. Do you have enough fields to allow for field rotation to provide the necessary rest periods for your field? Yes No

4a) Are funds available for an irrigation system? Yes No. b) If no, will watering costs be included in the operating budget? Yes No

5. Will there be footwear restrictions? Yes No

6. Do you have the appropriate equipment* to do the necessary maintenance on your field? Yes No

* See Following Advisory Bulletin #2, Suggested Equipment List, which starts on the next page.

Synthetic Fields

1a) If you are considering a synthetic field, will you charge user fees for the removal and environmental disposal of the synthetic turf when it becomes worn?

Yes No b) Are you budgeting for the costs associated with replacing the synthetic material? Yes No

2. Do you or your staff have the expertise to monitor, groom or repair the synthetic field? Yes No

3a) Are funds available for an irrigation system? Yes No. b) If no, will the cost of water to cool the turf be included in the operating budget? Yes No

4a) What type of permanent field markings are desired or required?

b) What type of decorative or revenue generating logos are desired?

c) Do you intend to change field uses/markings and/or logos on the field? Yes No

5a) Do you have the appropriate equipment* to do the necessary maintenance on your field? Yes No.

b) Will the budget allow for purchase of specialty tools to maintain and repair synthetic turf? Yes No.

c) Will the budget allow for training the staff on how to use them correctly? Yes No

* See Following Advisory Bulletin #2, Suggested Equipment List, which starts on the next page.

6. Will there be footwear restrictions? Yes No

The content of these bulletins is intended for informational purposes and is not intended as a substitute for specific professional consultation.

LANDSCAPE

ARCHITECTURE & URBAN DESIGN GROUP



MMM GROUP

SERVICES:

- ▶ Artificial Turf Field
- ▶ Natural Turf Field
- ▶ Track and Field Facilities

PROVIDING SPORT FACILITIES DESIGN CANADA WIDE



IAAF Facility, Trinity College, University of Toronto

SPORT FACILITY DESIGN TEAM:

- ▶ **Harry Kodors, BLA, OALA, CSLA**
Director of Development
kodorsh@mmm.ca
905-826-4770 ext 1730
- ▶ **Ben Tymchyshyn, BLA, BCSLA, OALA, CSLA**
Landscape Architect
tymchyshynb@mmm.ca
905-826-4770 ext 1734



Artificial Turf Field, James Jerome Complex, City of Greater Sudbury, ON

For further information or to contact any of our offices visit: www.mmm.ca