

specifications regarding its particle size distribution, porosity and water retention. The remaining four categories allow for more silt and clay in the root zone mix. The fifth category may be built on any *in situ* soil, where minimum disturbance of the existing soil profile occurs.

Moving down the classification system, the second level of separation is irrigation. This level of separation occurs below drainage because a fully functioning drainage system is a prerequisite to the installation of irrigation to guard against excess water in the root zone due to improper timing of irrigation with rainfall events.

The third level of separation is the installation of subsurface drainage. All sports fields should be constructed with drainage to guard against excess water in the root zone.

The final level of separation is the availability of lights which reflects the amount of use the field will receive due to extended hours of play and the level of maintenance the use of the fields will

demand. Often other physical structures such as stands, change rooms, paved parking, etc., will be associated with the provision of lights. The fields will primarily be associated with scheduled, ticket-requiring games by professional players.

Based on the classification system, developed by the authors of the manual, a person immediately knows that a Category 1 field will have drainage, irrigation and a sand root zone. The field may be used for any sport, baseball, soccer, thoroughbred racing, as long as the dimension requirements of the turf area which the field is used for are adhered to.

The acceptance and use of the classification system will alleviate many of the problems in discussing management, scheduling or other items associated with athletic fields using natural turf. For example, if discussing a Category 2 field, it will immediately be known that the field has 25% or less silt and clay, is drained and irrigated, but may or may not have lights. ♦

## FIGURE 1. THE STA ATHLETIC FIELD CLASSIFICATION

### LIGHTS

#### Drainage

- Irrigation
    - Category 1
    - Category 2
    - Category 3
  - No irrigation (not recommended)
- No Drainage** (not recommended)

### NO LIGHTS

#### Drainage

- Irrigation
  - Category 1
  - Category 2
  - Category 3
  - Category 4
- No Irrigation
  - Category 3
  - Category 4

#### No Drainage

- Irrigation (not recommended)
- 1 No Irrigation
  - Category 5

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# Cover Continued...

## MAKING ONTARIO ACCESSIBLE

Bill Clausen, Facility Manager, University of Guelph



... training packages for all our staff members reasonably seamlessly.

Making existing facilities as accessible as possible is simply common sense. If the physical layout of our facility inhibits its use, access or customer service, it is reasonable to expect us to provide assistance for someone with a disability to surmount this difficulty. Whether this is something as simple as placing a wheelchair accessible table in your lobby until you can affect structural changes in the service counter or having a staff member guide a sight

impaired client to the proper location, we can make our facilities accessible.

Building and renovating facilities ahead of the curve also makes financial sense. Conforming to the expected standards of 2025 now will save money in the long term. It also means you can expect to increase your revenue base if people with disabilities discover your facilities are totally accessible – not just in the physical sense but also with respect to customer service, transportation and employment – they will become enthusiastic clients/customers.

All the information you need to know about these standards is available on the Ministry of Community and Social Services website [www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/mcsc/english/pillars/accessibilityOntario](http://www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/mcsc/english/pillars/accessibilityOntario).

This site provides access to the latest press releases with up-to-date information on what to expect next. For example, the lead item is about the proposed Accessible Employment Standard which is designed to help employers provide equal opportunities for people with disabilities. This is the next piece of legislation with which we will have to comply.

There is also a section on complying with the Accessibility Standards for Customer Service and how to report your compliance. There are links to Accessibility and Your Business which can help

you apply for financial assistance to make your organization accessible, help you welcome customers with disabilities, and give you information on why being accessible is good for your business.

Information is readily available about the Ontarians with Disabilities Act 2001 – frequently asked questions, helpful links where you can find information, and resources to help with accessibility planning.

For training purposes, there is a quick link to an online course, Serve-Ability, to provide training for your staff. It takes about 45 minutes and will help your staff provide better customer service to people with disabilities.

In conclusion, Ontario is striving to bring a segment of our population into the twenty first century where they belong. As an industry, the sports turf community needs to embrace these progressive changes to make all Ontarians welcome in our facilities and organizations by providing exceptional customer service to all. ♦

### QUICK FACTS

1.85 million Ontarians have a disability and this number will grow as the baby boomer generation ages.

More than 200 people participated on committees that drafted accessibility standards.

Accessibility standards are being phased in to give businesses and organizations time to break down barriers for people with disabilities over planning cycles.



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