

Sports Turf Manager

FOR BETTER, SAFER SPORTS TURF. AUTUMN 2013. VOL. 26. NO. 3.

Sports Turf Managers Must Address the Challenges of a Diverse Sport Loving Population

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Canada is a diverse country with a long history of sport and involvement in athletics. Too often when categorizing Canadian sports, the popular opinion is that hockey dominates the Canadian sporting culture. While this is true when speaking about spectator sports, other sports are very significant when participation in a sport is taken into account.

Despite Canada's tradition of sport participation, a survey conducted by the Ministry of Heritage in 2010 and published in 2013 has shown that both the percentage of Canadians participating in sport and the total number of Canadians participating in sport is declining.

There are many factors that play into the participation rates in Canada including economic status and education level. One very interesting conclusion from the report is that recent immigrants to Canada participate in sport at the same rate as Canadian born residents. This shows that the decline in sport participation is not due to immigration.

THE KEY TO MANAGING MULTI-USE FIELDS IS TO UNDERSTAND THE SPORTS BEING PLAYED AND THEIR RESPECTIVE WEAR PATTERNS.

Amongst adults, golf is the most participated in sport in Canada, followed by hockey. The third most popular sport in terms of participation is soccer, but for youth, soccer is by far the most popular sport with close to double the participation rate compared to the next two, hockey and swimming.

One of the most interesting facts from the survey is that participation in sports not listed in the top 25, exceeds that in the most popular sport. This survey provides evidence of what

sports turf managers throughout Canada have already known. The diversity of sport in Canada is large and this presents a challenge to sports turf managers to provide safe accessible sports fields for a varied array of sports.

Much of sports turf research is performed on sport specific fields primarily for high-level stadiums and for high school sports in the United States. In Canada most fields are multi-use fields that must host a number of different sports with different demands, wear

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