

“Sports Field Managers”

‘Certification Program’

The Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA), having recognized the importance of fostering and improving professionalism within the sports turf industry, has developed a certification program for Certified Sports Field Managers. The purpose of the program is to:

- Increase professionalism in the sports turf industry
- Promote Better and Safer Sports Turf Areas
- Establish credentials that signify a specific level of expertise
- Increase career opportunities and promote the sports turf manager and the profession
- Provide recognition for attaining a level of expertise and performance as professionals in the industry
- Stimulate and motivate improved performance and increased professionalism
- Increase opportunities for education and training

Additionally the STMA has established continuing education requirements that all Certified Sports Field Managers must satisfy to maintain their status as a STMA Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM)

In order to attain the designation of Certified Sports Field Manager, a candidate must satisfy: 1) the Basic Requirements; 2) the combination of education and experience point requirements; 3) pass a national certification examination. There is an application fee of \$250 for STMA members and \$350 for non-members, a testing fee of \$100 for members and non-members.

STMA offers other member benefits including: facilities tours, a national awards program, a bi-monthly newsletter, Sports Turf Topics (their compendium), an annual membership roster and resource manual, a monthly magazine, the annual conference and exhibition, and this certification program.

If you are interested in receiving more information about becoming a member or on the certification program contact the National Sports Turf Managers Association at 1-800-323-3875 or e-mail SportsTMgr@aol.com You can check out their web-site at www.sportsturfmanager.com

“Monthly Field Tip”

Shoot first and ask questions later. When grading or renovating your infield, use a transit level to shoot elevations of turf perimeters, base paths, base inserts, home plate, pitchers mound etc. Document these elevations to use as a reference any time drainage or other problems arise. Water typically requires a 1% slope (1/8" per foot) to flow freely off an infield. Try to maintain a minimum of 1% slope on all skinned areas.

Note: Whenever shooting elevations, always shoot a benchmark. This is the elevation of a stationary object in the close vicinity of your infield such as a catch basin, head wall etc. This benchmark can be used as a reference to correlate changes in field elevations caused by wear, erosion, lip buildup etc.. If your benchmark reads 4' this time and 5' the next time you are taking shots, all you need to do is add 1 foot to all your documented elevations and they will be relative to your new shots.

‘Skills’ continued

Most work is generated and done through a computer. Text writing, spreadsheets and e-mail are now becoming part of the daily norm. Not to be on top of this as the person who oversees daily activities of your athletic fields could have an effect as part of effectively communicating to others.

For those who have trouble conveying their thoughts or recommendations on paper, look for a class or workshop that will strengthen that area. Also, as an athletic field manager it is very important to stay current with the laws and regulations that pertain to labor, gender and diversity as well as having a knowledge of the budget procedures at your place of employment.

Join and get involved with your association. Joining and becoming involved with your association represents who you are and what you do. This is a great way to expound upon your role as an athletic field manager. Networking and building professional relationships with others both locally and nationally, I have found to be a tremendous asset in dealing with problems and finding solutions. Get involved, attend national and local meetings and be an active member.

Remember, the industry is constantly changing. To be the very best in athletic field maintenance and management you need to be at the top of your game. It all begins with communication. ;)