

Are you Certifiable? *Take the Exam*

**Jim Hermann CSFM,*

1. Do you have more scrap books filled with pictures of your athletic fields than you do of your family? Did you answer yes? Guess what? You could be certifiable.
2. Do you feel the Dallas cheerleaders should be banned from the playing field due to the unnecessary wear they inflict on the playing field.
Yup, probably certifiable.

No, this wasn't the Exam but I hope I got your attention. The exam I am referring to is the exam that may designate you as a "Certified Sports Field Manager". The national "Sports Turf Managers Association" has developed this test to not only acknowledge the abilities and understanding of those sports field managers who have attained an exemplary level of proficiency in sports field management, but also to develop and maintain a standard of professionalism within the industry.

To become eligible to take the exam, the sports field manager must meet certain education and/or experience requirements. Although formal education beyond high school is beneficial in meeting these requirements, these requirements may be met strictly through experience. This I can confirm, speaking as the only uneducated certified sports field manager in New Jersey; or rather the only certified sports field manager in New Jersey not to have received any formal education beyond high school.

A total of 40 combined education and experience points are required to take the certification examination

The examination for certification covers four major areas of sports field management.

- Agronomics
- Pest Management
- Administration
- Sports Specific Field Management

If you would like to be held accountable to a nationwide standard of competence, I would highly recommend you take the exam. Speaking from experience I can safely say; this is the only test I have ever taken where every subject covered is important in the in the day-to-day operation of my profession. Not one question during the four-hour exam caused me to pose the question; what do I need to know this for? The questions in each area covered by the exam were broad based enough to where if you aren't as proficient in one area as in another you can still do well on the exam.

Not unlike many of you, over the years I have gained experience and become, I feel, proficient at what I do. Taking the exam has allowed me to determine if I am proficient based on a national scale. This has given me an added confidence in my ability to make decisions. This added confidence is a benefit to anyone in the industry.

The national Sports Turf Managers Association provides a list of reference material that is beneficial to the sports field manager in studying for the exam. I suggest that anyone who anticipates taking the exam, acquire the recommended reference material pertaining to the four major areas of sports field management covered in the exam and take the time to review this information. Check our www.sportsturfmanager.com ▲

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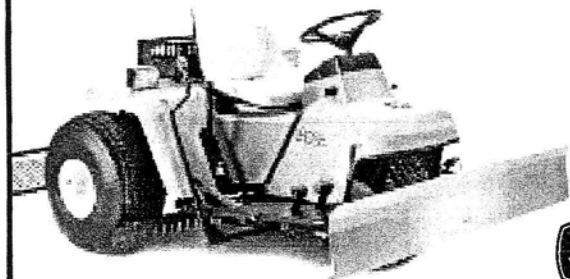
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