

# UPDATE

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# Sports Field

## Managers Association of New Jersey



Fall 2021  
Vol. 21, No. 3

P.O. Box 205, Pennsville, NJ 08070 • 856-514-3179 • www.sfmanj.org • e-mail: mail@sfmanj.org

## SFMANJ Fall Field Day Players Development Academy

Wednesday, October 20, 2021



Field # 3



### See inside for:

Info on the SFMANJ Fall Field Day

Info on EXPO 2021

The Scoop on Dog Parks

Plans for Next Year

The Importance of Manuals

A Little Humor



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# Welcome! New and Renewed SFMANJ Members

Currently we have 204 new & renewed members for 2021. Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey has mailed invoices for 2021 membership dues to all current members. If you did not receive an invoice, please register on our website, [www.sfmanj.org](http://www.sfmanj.org). Contact us at 856.514.3179 with any questions. Checks can be mailed to SFMANJ, PO Box 205, Pennsville, NJ 08070.

Steve Magno

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## HERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU!

If you have a desire to be more of a part of your organization, the SFMANJ Board of Directors would like to hear from you.

If you would like to attend Board Meetings or serve on a committee, please contact SFMANJ

at

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Register for the  
SFMANJ Fall Field day  
at

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### MISSION STATEMENT

Committed to enhancing the professionalism of athletic field managers by improving the safety, playability and appearance of athletic fields at all levels through seminars, field days, publications and networking with those in the sports turf industry.

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### National Organization

Sports Turf Managers Association  
[www.stma.org](http://www.stma.org)

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This newsletter is the official quarterly publication of the  
**Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey.**

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SFMANJ does not necessarily support the opinions of those reflected in the following articles.

# SFMANJ Fall Field Day - 2021

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

## Players Development Academy

1 Upper Pond Rd, Somerset, NJ

Host: Jeff Olszyk, Sports Field Manager

7:00 AM	<b>Vendors May Arrive and Set-Up</b>
7:30 – 9:00 AM	<b>Attendee Registration and Trade Show</b>
9:00 – 9:30 AM	<b>Introductions and Natural Turf Equipment Demos</b>
9:30 – 10:00 AM	<b>Facility Overview and History</b> <i>Jeff Olszyk, PDA</i>
10:00 – 10:45 AM	<b>Synthetic Turf Safety and Synthetic Turf Equipment Demos</b> <i>SportCare Synthetic Field Maintenance, Bridgewater, NJ and Scott Bills, Sports Field Solutions</i>
10:45 – 11:30 AM	<b>Field Tour: Soils and Field Construction</b> <i>Jeff Olszyk, PDA and Dr. Jim Murphy, Rutgers Univ.</i>
11:30 – 12:00 PM	<b>Natural Turf Equipment Demos</b>
12:00 – 12:30 PM	<b>Field Tour: Field-Specific Weed Control as IPM</b> <i>Jeff Olszyk, PDA and Brad Park, Rutgers Univ.</i>
12:30 – 1:00 PM	<b>Sports Field Fertilization</b> <i>Dr. Jim Murphy, Rutgers Univ.</i>
1:00 PM	<b>Adjourn and Credits</b>



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# Expo is back for 2021!

## Begin your planning to attend - December 7-9, 2021

By Brad Park

*Editor's Note: This article was adapted from materials developed by Chris Carson, Golf Course Superintendent, Echo Lake Country Club, Westfield, NJ and Expo Education Chairman; and Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA)*

It's time to begin planning your trip to Expo 2021. The New Jersey Green Expo will return to The Borgata in Atlantic City, NJ during December 7-9, 2021 after a one-year hiatus due to COVID-19.

A few highlights of what's planned for Expo 2021:

**Credits, Credits, Credits...** New Jersey DEP Pesticide Credits (and other states) are anticipated as well as New Jersey ProFACT Fertilizer Credits.

**Education...** a comprehensive Educational Program will focus on Sports Fields, Lawn and Landscapes, and Golf disciplines. Local, national, and internationally known industry and university leaders will be presenting important information that you can use to make your operation better.

**Trade Show...** one of the largest trade show events in the region, Expo proudly presents many of the best vendors and suppliers of services. Discuss your specific management issues with the best companies our industry has to offer.

**Fellowship...** many opportunities exist to meet old friends and to make new ones. Whether on the trade show floor, or in the hallways between sessions, or in the many formal social opportunities, or in the informal social get-togethers, the three days at Expo offer you a great opportunity to learn what others are doing in our business in a relaxed atmosphere. Many attendees have told us that these informal discussions are highlights of the conference!

**One-on-one discussion opportunities with industry leaders...** including the many Faculty at Rutgers University and at other top-notch Universities. Rutgers Professors and more will be there to answer your management questions.

**Another year at The Borgata ...** The Borgata is the premier Hotel/Casino in Atlantic City and Expo will be returning to The Borgata for 2021!

The Expo mission statement: **The NJ Green Expo is a science based conference and trade show that provides education, business, fellowship, and environmental stewardship opportunities in partnership with the Center for Turfgrass Science at Rutgers University.**

**How can you convince your employer to send you?** Continuing education and industry connections are crucial to your success and the success of your sports fields. Here are some suggestions to help your employer understand how your attendance at Expo 2021 can add value to the overall operation of your facility.

**Educate yourself on the Conference and Exhibition** Provide your employer an overview of the size and scope of Expo 2021 and a copy of the education agenda. This edition of SFMANJ Update provides the Sports Field Managers Program for Expo 2021.

Pinpoint specific sessions you plan to attend, and tie their relevance to your sports facility. It is anticipated that tough-to-acquire New Jersey DEP Category 13 credits will be awarded for attendance during Sports Field Managers sessions in 2021.

Highlight the trade show and cite suppliers and equipment manufacturers you plan to meet. Discuss the networking opportunities you will have with peers who share challenges similar to the ones you have.

Explain how innovations in products, new research, and cutting edge management techniques continually change, and why it is important to stay abreast of those changes.

*Continued on page 14*

## WARNING!!

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## SPAM FOLDER

As a non-profit, we are trying to keep our costs down, including mailing information to members. If we don't have your email address, please give it to us!

Visit our new web site:

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# New Jersey Green Expo – Turf & Landscape Conference

December 7-9, 2021

The Borgata, Atlantic City, NJ

## 2021 Sports Field Managers Expo Program

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2021

#### Morning Session

- 7:30 - 8:30 AM **Early Bird Sports Field Managers**  
*Networking roundtable*
- 8:30 – 9:00 AM **Sports Field And Grounds IPM: The Year in Review**  
*Brad Park, Rutgers Univ.*
- 9:00 – 9:30 AM **SFMANJ Annual Business Meeting & Awards Presentation**
- 9:30 - 10:30 AM **Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Strategies To Address Weed Populations on School and Municipal Sports Fields**  
*Tanner Delvalle, Penn State Extension*
- 10:30 - 11:30 AM **Sports Field and Integrated Pest Management at Players Development Academy**  
*Jeff Olszyk, Players Development Academy*
- 11:30 – 2:30 PM **Trade Show**

#### Afternoon Session

- 2:30 – 3:00 PM **The STMA BMP Document And Why It Is Important For Your Sports Field Facility**  
*Zack Holm, Central Park Conservancy*
- 3:00 – 4:00 PM **Implementing IPM for High School Sports Fields And Grounds**  
*Mike Nicotra, Woodstown BOE*
- 4:00 – 5:00 PM **School and Municipal IPM Methods: Tough to Control Weeds on Sports Fields**  
*Dr. Roch Gaussoin, Univ. of Nebraska*

## To Register for the SFMANJ Fall Field Day

go to

**[www.sfmanj.org](http://www.sfmanj.org)**

If you have trouble with this, call or email the office at  
**856-514-3179** or **[mail@sfmanj.org](mailto:mail@sfmanj.org)**

**Board meetings are open to all members and usually held on the first Wednesday of each month.**

**Call the office at  
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email: [mail@sfmanj.org](mailto:mail@sfmanj.org)  
if you would like to attend.**



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# MY TURF WENT TO THE DOGS - Here's the Scoop on Dog Parks



by Jeff Cramer

As grounds managers, we often receive requests for special projects. When our township governing body requested we plan, construct and maintain a “dog park” (off-leash area for dogs) I realized there were many new challenges – not the least was care of the turf.

When I announced the project to my staff, most, if not all, were concerned with the impact of pet waste on staff and equipment. Shortly after the opening of the park we realized that the pet waste was the least of our maintenance problems. Long-term care of the park's turf was our major battle.

Here are some suggestions you may want to consider before installing a dog park:

## FACILITY DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

- Visit other existing sites to determine impact on your maintenance program. Don't reinvent the wheel if you don't need to. You can see what is best for you by reviewing what works and doesn't work for other dog parks. Our facility was a one-acre site.
- Choose better quality fencing materials to provide a safe environment for dogs and to reduce maintenance. Use largest wire core and thickest fabric coating, install a bottom tension wire and use heavier grade posts and rails.
- Install a double-gated user entrance where owners can unleash their pets.
- Plan an equipment service gate of sufficient size for your turf equipment.
- If a water source is available, install a freeze-proof hydrant convenient to the facility.
- Do not plant trees or shrubs – they won't survive!
- Other things to consider: sitting benches, bulletin board, shade canopy, port-a-johns.

## PET WASTE CONTROL

- Post user rules and pet waste regulations at several locations.
- Install several self-serve pet waste clean-up mitten dispensers with covered and lined waste cans along the inner perimeter.
- Solicit park users to help enforce self clean-up by owners. This provided excellent results for our facility. Additional enforcement by park rangers if available. This includes pet license enforcement, control of aggressive animals, etc.

## TURF MAINTENANCE

- Locate the facility in a well-drained area.
- Our facility consisted of primarily Kentucky 31 tall fescue – tall fescues provide the best wear tolerance.
- Soil compaction, both the four-legged and two-legged kind, was the biggest problem, not pet waste. Aerate several times per season to help maintain a viable turf.
- Raise cutting height to 3” – 3 ½”.
- Conduct soil tests to determine soil phosphorous (P), potassium (K), magnesium (Mg), calcium (Ca) and liming needs. Apply slow-release nitrogen (N) sources to provide 3-5 lbs Nitrogen per year.
- Remove all sod at the entrance gate and replace with #10 cinders compacted over ¾” clean gravel – the turf will never survive here.
- Use a nonselective herbicide beneath the fence line. Keep the park closed during application until herbicide has dried.

*Jeff Cramer is a past member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors*



Some photos from the Rutgers Lawn, Landscape and Field Turf SFMANJ Sponsored Trade Show

*Photos by Debbie Savard*

See more photos on page 11

# Humor in Turf

By Bernard Luongo



The idea for this article came to me when I was cutting the front lawn with our powerful 6.5-horsepower 21-inch rear wheel drive high boy. Over the years of being a turf herder I've not only experienced humor on the job but also was told many a funny story from fellow herders that I would like to share with everyone. Now we're a special bunch who takes pride in our work and I truly believe we all want to improve the quality of our facilities during the course of our adventure. I'm fairly confident that we also harbor a special sense of humor that maybe some other folks might not find humorous. Now we do spread a lot of fertilizer from March 1st to December 1st and other types during other months, so the story goes....so let's begin the first story.

I will take credit for this one. I was new to the job only a few weeks in. I not only had to learn the personalities of who I was working with but alas the equipment also. A quick tutorial on how to start the equipment and you were basically ready to go. My first experience was with a zero turn. As everyone knows it isn't just turning the key on. I was wondering why everyone was gathering around to watch. I came from a different place. This was all new to me. After a little coaching and a couple of chuckles I finally got the contraption started. Now to get the thing moving. A straight line didn't exist. For more times than not we had to fix the fence on the first base line of the junior varsity field.

After a few weeks of hitting garbage cans and goal posts and yes having to be pulled out of a retaining basin I got the hang of it. But to the last day of my retirement I still couldn't cut a straight line. After a while of mowing it would always turn into a banana curve ... I liken to a jet's flight path out of O'Hare. I was always told you can go back and fix that before it gets too out of hand. Mowing pattern awards were obviously not in my future. So now I cut our front lawn with our 21-inch front push mower and my wife reminds me from time to time that the lines on the front lawn are not straight.

The next story I cannot take credit for. It was told to me at a function I attended. Again, a newbie at the job was with his crew

and supervisor working on a 4-inch irrigation feeder line. A lot of water and a good amount of pressure goes through that line. So the hole was dug to expose the problem. Earlier in the newbie's adventure he had worked as a plumber's helper so he had some basic repair skills. He became a turf herder because of some medical back issues. Why he chose this profession is beyond me because we lift a lot of 50-lb pillows. But as he watched the repair being made he became puzzled. The repair was made with just a plastic double female with purple juice and glue. Now being new but having some basic knowledge he felt he should say something without insulting anyone. He asked, "How much pressure is in that line when charged?" The answer came back, 80-psi. He questioned, "Would it be more being so close to the well head?" The answer was, "Probably." He didn't say anything more until the supervisor asked one of the guys to get the cordless drill and some self tapping screws. He had to say something again. "Is that a good idea?" The response was, "Yeah we'll just put some screws in where it's joined for added strength." So the time came to charge the line. The pump was turned on, and the supervisor was in the hole straddling the pipe and the pipe started shaking. The last thing the newbie said on this particular job was. "You better get out of there now it's gonna blow!" The supervisor barely got out of that hole in time. There was water coming out of every screw hole and seam. Then it blew apart. Everyone got soaked and thankfully no one got hurt. He said, "It's been a long time since anyone had laughed that hard", of course after the fact. So these are just a few stories. I'm sure there are many more out there. So I am hoping that more people will share their job experiences that have happened to them over the years or have overheard some funny adventures. It could possibly start a new column in our newsletter that could help someone get through a stressful day!

Until then ..... Keep smiling!

*Bernard Luongo is a Retired Sports Turf Manager, SFMANJ Past-President and current Member of the Board of Directors*

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# SFMANJ Photo Recap:

# RUTGERS LAWN, LANDSCAPE AND SPORTS TURF FIELD DAY Including

# SFMANJ-Sponsored Trade Show

Wednesday, July 28, 2021



Great to see everyone!

Photos by Debbie Savard



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# Making Plans for Next Year



by Don Savard, CSFM, CGM

How well did your sports field do this past year? Did it look and play as you expected it to? Are you satisfied with the results? Many sports field managers' review the past year and make plans (and budgets) now for the upcoming year. It is time to take an honest, hard look at how well the 2012 program worked so that you will know what to keep and what to change. Not sure where to start? Here's a hint: Ask your crew, your owners and user groups for their thoughts. Their answers might surprise you.

Were there any injuries on your fields? Safety is always a good place to start. Even if you were fortunate that nobody had an injury, there may be problems out there waiting to happen. You probably have walked by these potential accidents so many times that you don't notice them anymore. Ask a qualified third party (such as a trusted fellow sports field manager from another facility) to bring fresh eyes to your site. You will be amazed at what someone else will find questionable at your facility. Be sure to document every deficiency with a digital camera, then correct and document again after the corrections are made.

Do your fields play well? Are the surfaces fast or slow enough for the level of play? Do balls roll or bounce with expected predictability? Coaches and players (including those from visiting teams) can give you important feedback. You won't know unless you ask! Drastic changes like buying new mowing equipment might make a big improvement, but, so can subtle changes like adjusting mowing heights or mowing frequency.

Many of us have to schedule our cultural practices around the field users. Do we have the flexibility to adjust our schedules so that we don't have to mow grass when it covered with dew? Can early morning, evening or weekend work schedules be used to safely perform tasks that would otherwise not have time to be done?

How effective is your irrigation? The goal here is to provide enough water to the turf when it needs it, factoring in the amount of natural rainfall and the normal moisture loss due to evaporation and plant transpiration (evapotranspiration). Does your soil absorb the water being delivered, or is there runoff and puddling? Is the

distribution uniform or are there both saturated and dry spots? Does the time of day that you irrigate promote plant health or plant disease? An irrigation audit is a useful tool to measure how efficiently your irrigation system and watering program is working. For information on how to conduct an irrigation audit, visit the Irrigation Association website: [www.irrigation.org](http://www.irrigation.org). Not only does smart irrigation promote better turfgrass health, it saves money and does not waste your time.

Fertilizer certification and School IPM laws have been getting plenty of attention in New Jersey (and elsewhere) lately. Take the time to read and completely understand what is being asked of you. While there are some new guidelines to follow, you will still be allowed to perform the tasks of feeding turf and managing weeds, insects and diseases. Regularly scheduled soil tests and scouting for problems allows you customize your program to your environmental conditions. Based on my sports field's soil test results, I have been able to eliminate Phosphorus and Potassium from some fertilizer applications without sacrificing quality and saving lots of money. "P" and "K" are expensive. Why buy it if you don't need it?

The end of the year is a good time to ask yourself how well you interacted with and treated the people around you. These include your family, coworkers, bosses, user groups and the people who sell to you and provide you with services. If your relationships with any or all of those people are damaged, look inward and try to find some understanding of the problem and what part you might have played. I can attest (from firsthand experience) that some of my damaged relationships improved when I reached out and made amends.

Lastly, what have you done for yourself lately in terms of personal and professional development? Have you taken a class, or read a book lately. Personal development keeps you sharp and competitive. It energizes you and gives you personal power. Remember, if you are not pedaling, you are coasting, and if you coast long enough, you are headed downhill.

*Don Savard, CSFM, CGM is a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM); Certified Grounds Manager (CGM), Sports Turf Manager, Salesianum School, Wilmington Delaware; Past-President, SFMANJ*

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# Expo is back for 2021!

## Begin your planning to attend - December 7-9, 2021

*Continued from page 5*

Reinforce how the success of your sports fields ultimately depends upon the continued professional development of you and your staff.

### Know the Cost

Make a case for efficient and effective use of your facility's training dollars. By attending Expo 2021, you will be exposed to the most relevant education and technology in one place, making it the most effective use of training dollars.

Research travel times and hotel costs. While Atlantic City is feasible day trip from almost anywhere in New Jersey, the New Jersey Turfgrass Association does its part to negotiate reasonable room rates at The Borgata to make staying a night reasonable. Expo 2021 will feature online registration at [www.njturfgrass.org](http://www.njturfgrass.org)

### Have an Action Plan

Develop a plan for how operations will continue in your absence. Make sure you are accessible by phone (please turn off or set on vibrate during sessions!!!!) to address any concerns that might arise in your absence.

Consider preparing and presenting a report on the information you learned and how you plan to put it into practice at your facility. Demonstrate how you will share the technical information learned with your staff for their continuing educational development.

### See you in Atlantic City!

*Brad Park is Sports Turf Research & Education Coordinator, Rutgers University; Editor, SFMANJ Update newsletter; and a member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors.*

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# WHAT MANUAL?



by Fred Castenschiold

I have been selling quality turf care equipment for over thirty years. I am still amazed how so few customers refer to their owners/operator manuals until it is too late or not at all. These manuals are a great source of information for the supervisor, operator and mechanic.

When taking in a trade on equipment, I try to always recover the original manuals from the account to pass on to the new owner. Often the condition of these manuals condition indicates that they have not been referred-to much! It is a good idea to always record the model and serial number of the equipment on the cover of the manual for quick reference when discussing the need for service or parts. It also a good idea to make sure you read and understand the operators' manual for your machine before operating or servicing it. Become familiar with all safety signs (decals) on the machine. Some manufacturers provide operator training videos which help demonstrate procedures for safe operation and daily maintenance.

Preventative maintenance of your equipment will help you to get the most out of your investment. If you do not have a preventative maintenance program it would be good to start one soon. Sometimes we go long stretches between those rainy day opportunities. Doing scheduled maintenance and adjustments will prolong the life of your equipment, help prevent expensive downtime and give the best possible quality of cut and performance. Experience has shown that a high percentage of problems have developed over a period of time and could have been prevented by adjustment, lubrication, or other required maintenance.

When referring to the manual, take into consideration how harsh your conditions are and remember that manufacturer recommendations for service are the minimum requirements. If we have a long dry spell and your equipment is working daily in a particularly dusty environment you may wish to consider oil and air filter changes more often.

Some of my customers have come-up with great maintenance schedules which they live by. Keeping records for each machine insures that maintenance procedures are being performed at the proper time. These records could also help you predict parts to have on hand. By keeping blades, belts, filters, etc. on-hand, you will not be caught in a situation where important maintenance was not performed on-schedule because of a lack of parts.

Know what is contained in your manufacturer's warranty. Most warranties are two years in the commercial field. When talking to a service manager regarding a possible warranty issue you will need to refer to those model and serial numbers. Remember? ... The model and serial numbers you wrote down on the front cover of your manual!

*Fred Castenschiold is Sales Representative, Storr Tractor Company and a member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors.*

## sfmanj.org gets a facelift!

SportsField Managers Association of New Jersey has updated our administrative system and web site. Now information for all events will be posted on our website with registration handled on the website as well!

**Now ALL membership renewals, as well as new member registration, will be handled on the website also.**

This gives you the ability to enter your profile the way you would like it and add a bio and picture as well. Members who download the Member Directory will see what you want them to see. This is especially helpful to vendors.

### How To View and Login To Our Website

Please take the time to explore the new site at sfmanj.org. Use the login instructions and create a password for yourself.

### Who Can I Contact If I Have Questions?

If you have problems please contact Debbie by email at: mail@sfmanj.org or by phone at 856-514-3179.

*Debbie Savard  
SFMANJ Executive Secretary*

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# Calendar of Events

## SFMANJ Fall Field Day

October 20, 2021

Players Development Academy,

Somerset, NJ

856.514.3179

[www.sfmanj.org](http://www.sfmanj.org)



## NJ Green Expo Turf & Landscape Conference

December 7-9, 2021

Borgata Hotel & Casino,

Atlantic City NJ

973.812.6467

[www.njturfgrass.org](http://www.njturfgrass.org)

## Sports Turf Managers Conference & Exhibition

January 17-20, 2022

Savannah, GA

1.800.323.3875

[www.stma.org](http://www.stma.org)



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*Past issues of Update, dating from 2001 to the present can be accessed through the Michigan State University Libraries.*

*To access this archive, visit:*

*<http://archive.lib.msu.edu/tic/updat>*

# MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW TO ENTER THE SFMANJ 2021 FIELD OF THE YEAR CONTEST SEPT. 30, 2021 DEADLINE

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*for easy instructions and/or  
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# Pics From 2019 SFMANJ FALL FIELD DAY

Photos by Debbie Savard



*See you this year!!!!*

# More Pics From 2021 SFMANJ TRADE SHOW



*Hope you were able to make it!!!!*

**RESERVATION DEADLINE - OCTOBER 15, 2021**

# **SFMANJ Fall Field Day at Players Development Academy**

(Vendor quick use. Attendees, please go to web site. See agenda on page 4)

**PLEASE PRINT**

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Person(s) Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

- \$150.00 Booth Only (members only)
- \$275.00 Booth and Demo (non-members only, includes membership)
- \$250.00 Booth and Demo (members only)
- \$375.00 Booth and Demo (non-members only, includes membership)
- \$100.00 Additional Demo (members and non-members)

\*Non-member vendors may participate for an additional \$125.00 (includes membership).

LIST DEMO EQUIPMENT: if more than 2, please contact office. (\$100.00 each additional beyond one)

- 1.
- 2.

In fairness to all member vendors, we will first offer one demonstration per company. If there are unsold demo slots available after October 15, we will contact vendors and offer the available slots. Please sign up early so you don't miss out.

**\* PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUBMIT PROOF OF LIABILITY INSURANCE \***

EVERYONE MUST HAVE PROOF OF LIABILITY INSURANCE naming Players Development Academy and Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey as additional insured that must accompany signed agreement.

**Become a SPONSOR of our Field Day!**

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  - Gold, \$750.00
  - Silver, \$500.00
  - Bronze, \$250.00
  - Friend, \$100.00
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_

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Cardholder Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Please Sign: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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**ATTENTION ATTENDEES AND VENDORS:**

Another easy way to register is to go to **www.sfmanj.org** and register there. Call **856-514-3179** with questions

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