

# UPDATE

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Sports Field  
Managers Association of New Jersey



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

# RUTGERS

## Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Turf Field Day

Includes SFMANJ-sponsored Trade Show &  
Equipment Demonstrations

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

(See Schedule Inside)



### See Inside For:

Elevating Your Professional  
Status

2022 Field of the Year

Water Management

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# Welcome! New and Renewed SFMANJ Members for 2023

We have 215 new & renewed members for 2023. Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey has generated invoices for 2023 membership dues to all current members. If you did not receive an invoice, please contact us at 856.514.3179 or download the membership form available at [www.sfmanj.org](http://www.sfmanj.org). Mail membership dues direct to SFMANJ, PO Box 205, Pennsville, NJ 08070.

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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  
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This newsletter is the official quarterly publication of the  
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SFMANJ does not necessarily support the opinions of those reflected in the following articles.

Please call the office with any questions

# 856-514-3179

# ELEVATE YOUR PROFESSIONAL STATUS: BECOME A CERTIFIED SPORTS FIELD MANAGER



Editor's Note: This article appeared in the News Online section of the Sports Field Management Association (SFMA) website on May 1, 2023 ([www.sportsfieldmanagement.org](http://www.sportsfieldmanagement.org))

Are you looking to take your career to the next level? The Sports Field Management Association (SFMA) has developed a comprehensive certification program – the Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM).

Achieving CSFM status is not only a mark of leadership and excellence, but it also signifies your commitment to advancing your knowledge and skills in sports field management. It is a badge of honor that can boost your confidence, pride, and career prospects.

Becoming a CSFM is a challenging process that draws upon your education and experience in managing sports fields. It is designed to push you to be the best and prove that you have what it takes to excel in the industry. The skills and knowledge you will gain while preparing for the certification exam can contribute to your professional growth and advancement in the field. Don't miss this opportunity to take your career to new heights – become a CSFM today!

## PURPOSE OF CERTIFICATION

The Sports Field Management Association (SFMA), 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 field management industry
- Promote Better and Safer Sports Field Areas
- Establish credentials that signify a specific level of expertise
- Increase career opportunities and promote the sports field 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 SFMA has established continuing education requirements that all Certified Sports Field Managers must satisfy to maintain their status as a SFMA 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.

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# 2023 Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Turf Field Day: Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Including SFMANJ-Sponsored Trade Show and Equipment Demonstrations  
Rutgers Adelphia Research Farm, Freehold, NJ

## EVENT SCHEDULE (Order of talks subject to change)

### 7:30 to 9:00 AM

Registration and Trade Show sponsored by Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey

### 9:00 AM TO 10:00 AM

#### **Stop #1: Breeding for improved disease resistance in Kentucky bluegrass and perennial ryegrass - 2021 CTBT Kentucky Bluegrass and 2022 NTEP Perennial Ryegrass**

*Speaker: Dr. Stacy Bonos*

Presentation Synopsis: Characteristics and uses of Kentucky bluegrass and perennial ryegrass will be discussed. Breeding and selection techniques used to develop Kentucky bluegrass and perennial ryegrass cultivars will be described. Kentucky bluegrass cultivar tolerance to important diseases such as rust, leaf spot, and summer patch will be discussed. Breeding advances in perennial ryegrass tolerance to gray leaf spot, brown patch, and stem rust diseases will also be discussed. The latest advances in molecular marker technology will also be discussed.

#### **Stop #2: Integrated Management of False-Green Kyllinga**

*Speaker: Trevor Watson*

Presentation Synopsis: Participants will learn about the strengths and weaknesses of various herbicide programs for false-green kyllinga control. We will discuss the life cycle of false-green kyllinga and environmental conditions that affect false-green kyllinga competitiveness in turfgrass. Attendees will observe a research trial evaluating commercially available herbicides for false-green kyllinga control. Integrated programs for false-green kyllinga control in the lawn, landscape and athletic field will be discussed based on the latest research.

#### **Stop #3: SFMANJ-Sponsored Equipment Demonstrations**

### 10:00 AM TO 11:00 AM

#### **Stop #4: 2020 Fine Fescue NTEP trial**

*Speaker: Shidi 'Daniel' Wu*

Presentation Synopsis: Characteristics and uses of fine fescues will be discussed. Breeding objectives of fine fescues including disease resistance will also be discussed. Selection work for summer patch tolerance, leaf spot and dollar spot will be described. Fine fescues generally have a lower annual nitrogen requirement compared to other cool-season turfgrass species; fertilization strategies will be discussed.

#### **Stop #5: 2018 NTEP Tall Fescue Trial + Investigating grub tolerance in tall fescue**

*Speaker: Jennifer Halterman*

Presentation Synopsis: Characteristics and uses of tall fescue will be discussed. We will describe various selection procedures used to improve these important traits. Breeding objectives of tall fescue including important traits such as drought, rhizome formation, brown patch and gray leaf spot resistance will be discussed. Tall fescue generally has a lower annual nitrogen requirement compared to other cool-season turfgrass species; fertilization strategies will be discussed.

#### **Stop #6: Shade Research in Cool-Season Turfgrasses**

*Speaker: Mr. Eric MacPherson*

Presentation synopsis: Shade affects many homelawns and golf course greens throughout the world. The development of shade tolerant turfgrass would improve the quality of homelawns and putting greens under shade. The traits important for shade tolerance and the best species of cool-season turfgrass to use in shade will be discussed. Nitrogen management for turfgrasses grown in shaded sites will be discussed.

### 11:00 AM TO 12:00 PM

#### **Stop #7. Establishment and performance of warm-season grasses in New Jersey**

*Speaker: Mr. Mark LaBarge*

Presentation synopsis: Hotter and dryer summers in New Jersey has elevated the importance of testing warm-season grass performance in New Jersey. Bermudagrasses and Zoysiagrasses with improved winter performance were planted in 2022. Disease tolerance, persistence, establishment and overall performance will be discussed.

#### **Stop #8. Remote sensing imagery of high throughput phenotyping to select elite turfgrass cultivars**

*Speaker: Mr. Haoguang Yang*

Presentation Synopsis: This presentation will discuss remote sensing technology, specifically how aerial imagery with multiple spectral and RGB cameras carried by a drone, can be used to assess turfgrass quality and performance. This technology could be useful to select stress- and disease-resistant cultivars under different management regimes or environmental conditions. This presentation will demonstrate the multiple spectral and RGB cameras carried by a drone at the field site.

*Continued on page 13*

# 2022 *Field of the Year*

By Scott Bills, CSFM

The Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey received four applications for 2022 Field of the Year.

The list of entrants included two 60/90 baseball fields from a high school and a county park, one 50/70 Youth baseball field from a county park and one High School football field.

The SFMANJ board found all the applicants deserving but settled on the high school football field at George Ormsby Memorial Stadium at Williamstown High School in the Monroe Township School District, Williamstown, NJ, as the 2021 Field of the Year. Joseph Anderson, Grounds Manager



explained in his application, "Our field is great not just for football but also for our marching band and their competitions. Our football coaches rave about how well our field performs for their running and passing games. We utilize a sports blend of grass containing Fescue, Kentucky Bluegrass and Perennial Ryegrass to compensate for our 4 season area and our sometimes drastic wet and dry months. The crown-pitch are the only downfall which can make it hard to

see sideline to sideline. The budget of about \$5,000.00 is allotted for fertilizer, fungicide treatments, if needed, paint, seed, etc.."

*Continued on page 8*

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# Managing Water for Playability - Part 3

By Brad Park

Editor's Note: This article first appeared in *Sports Turf Manager* (Autumn 2015) the official publication of Sports Turf Canada.

## Baseball/Softball Infields and Infield Skin Surfaces

Several useful resources have been developed in recent years that provide practical information on the subject of baseball and softball infield skin surfaces. The Rutgers Cooperative Extension Fact Sheet, *Skin Surface Selection and Management for Baseball and Softball Infields* summarizes infield mix selection criteria developed by American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM, 2007) and management information derived from field research and experienced sports field managers. This document can be accessed by performing a simple search using any web browser. *Baseball and Softball Fields: Design, Construction, Renovation, and Maintenance* is a textbook dedicated to this subject matter (Puhalla et al., 2003) and is a must-have resource for engineers and architects who are in the business of designing sports fields.

### Infield design

There are two primary considerations when designing baseball and softball infields: 1) The infield should be designed/constructed in such a manner to move surface water away from the infield towards the outfield and foul territory; and 2) Infield mixes/skin surfaces should not be expected to exhibit acceptable internal drainage and should therefore be part of the larger infield design to direct water towards the outfield and foul territory via surface pitch.

Regarding the first design consideration, as previously noted in the discussion concerning multipurpose fields, surface water should never be directed onto a baseball/softball infield. Moisture management plays a key role in the maintenance of infield skin surfaces; the sports field manager needs to have the ability to apply water to the skin at his or her discretion to maximize the playability of the surface, not be preoccupied with unwanted surface water running onto an infield skin surface as a result of design flaws. Puhalla et al. (2003) show an excellent set of drawings to illustrate grading designs with added 'good', 'better', and 'preferred (best)' commentary in order of effectiveness in moving surface water both away from the infield and off the entire playing surface in the most rapid manner possible.

All good designs call for some minor pitch (e.g. 0.5%) to infield skin surfaces to provide surface drainage. While extremely sandy infield mixes may allow for some internal drainage, most contain enough fines that under compacted conditions internal drainage will be compromised resulting in surface pitch being a necessity.

## Infield skin surface management

*Skin Surface Selection and Management for Baseball and Softball Infields* (Park and Murphy, 2009) summarizes the importance of water management in maintaining infield skin surfaces. In the most basic terms, water is needed to soften fine-textured infield mixes (high silt and clay content) and firm coarse-textured mixes (high sand content) (ASTM, 2007).

In the experience of the author, outside of natural rainfall events, water is not regularly applied to most school and town infield skin surfaces in New Jersey for the purpose of managing surface hardness and playability. The majority of mixes encountered by the author at schools and towns consist of approximately 80% sand and 20% silt+clay. While appropriately applying water could certainly improve the playability of these surfaces, many perform adequately considering the level of play in lieu of supplying water. On a cautionary note, high sand content infield mixes can be over-scarified with motorized infield grooming equipment equipped with large 'teeth'. Without the ability to apply water to firm these mixes, the loose, cat litter-like conditions that result from overly-aggressive grooming are difficult to firm until natural rainfall supplies the necessary moisture.

Similarly, grooming practices should be performed in such a manner to maintain a grade that allows for surface drainage. Water will pool in low-spots, sometimes referred to as 'birdbaths', if grooming procedures regularly remove infield mix from one area of the skin surface and deposit on another location of the skin surface (i.e. creating a high spot). Periodic laser-guided grading of infield skin surfaces is a highly effective means of re-setting grades (and good surface drainage).

Conditioners (e.g. calcined clay) can be spread on top of skin surfaces to improve playability over a range of weather conditions. Conditioners are often used to soak-up excess water after rain; finer-textured conditioners work best for this purpose (Puhalla et al., 2003) but should be removed from the skin surface after play (Sherry, 2006). Skin surface water retention is a function of the amount of silt and clay in the infield mix, not the amount of calcined clay on the surface; calcined clay applied to the skin surface will often dry before the underlying infield mix resulting in some grounds managers applying unneeded irrigation water (Brosnan and McNitt, 2007).



Continued on page 16

# 2022 Field of the Year

Regarding the overall maintenance plan, Joe offered, "We keep our field cut at 2 1/2-2 3/4 inches. The field is irrigated using a well water system. Our field receives 5 fertilizations a year and fungicides, if needed. A pre and post-emergent is applied to control annual and perennial weeds. The field is aerated once a year in late October/early November weather permitting and due to the sports schedule. Overseeding is completed at the same time."

This past year Joe stated, "One week after our June graduation we lost the entire irrigation system until the 3rd week of July."

Joe noted he would like to do more treatments, topdressing and fix the crown/pitch in the future with a larger budget.

The Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey Board of Directors would like to congratulate Joe, his staff and the Monroe Township School District for their hard work managing the football field at George Ormsby Memorial Stadium at Williamstown High School and being selected as the 2022 Field of the Year.

The three runners-up for 2022 include the Youth Baseball Field #4 at Mountainview Park by Rick DeLeon, Foreman/Head Groundskeeper for The Somerset County Parks Commission, Al Leiter Field at Al Kunzman Park, Central Regional High School by Keith Fisher, Supervisor of Grounds and the Baseball Field at Raritan Bay Waterfront Park by Larry Mayerowitz, General Supervisor for the Middlesex County Parks Department.



Rick provided an overview of Mountain View Park and described it as, "a sprawling 400 acre Somerset County Park Commission property in Hillsborough, NJ that opened in the Spring of 2017. It has 6 natural grass baseball fields, one Challenger Field (soft surface/handicap accessible), 2 Playgrounds, approximately 3 miles of paved trails for biking or walking that weave in and out of several beautiful, wild growing meadows. The stunning Sourland Mountains serve as a backdrop."

"Mountain View Park was built on the old grounds of the GSA Belle Meade Armed Forces Depot. Built in 1942 by the government

during World War II, it was the nations largest military supply depot housing over \$1.2 billion \$16 billion today) in armed services supplies, weapons, ammunition and construction supplies. At the time the depot created over 2,500 jobs."

"The fields are home to the Hillsborough Youth Baseball League throughout the year. We also host 12-15 tournaments per year along with other outside permits when the fields are available. We estimate that we host approximately 800-1000 games per year. We have had teams from Maryland to Massachusetts play here along with most of the other Northeastern states. A dedicated full-time staff of 4 takes care of the fields and the rest of the park property."

So with that said, "we are very proud to submit Mountain View Park Field #4 as our entry for Field of the Year."

Regarding maintenance, Rick explained, "Our maintenance program is very fluid each year. We have to adapt to weather, disease, plus wear and tear. However, our daily grooming and field care remains the same every day. Cleaning edges, mowing, nail dragging, leveling, raking, edging, mound and batter's box repair and infield grooming are many of the jobs that get done on a daily basis. Depending on the year and weather, the approximate budget for Field #4 is between \$4,500-5,000. This includes fertilization, pesticides, fungicides, irrigation, field materials and any projects." Rick stated, improvements to the field since it was first constructed, include "replacing the original infield mix, building a 6' warning track around the whole field and adding quick connect couplers behind 1st base, 3rd base and the pitcher's mound."

The second Field of Distinction was the entry by Keith Fisher, Supervisor of Grounds and Al Leiter Field at Al Kunzman Park for the Central Regional School District. The varsity baseball field at Central Regional High School was recently renovated. The infield skin surface was amended to DuraEdge 'Classic' and is topdressed with Pro's Choice conditioner. The pitcher's mound, batter's boxes and bullpens have been constructed with Black Stick. Keith stated is entire budget is approximately \$10,000.00 which includes fertilizer, seed, conditioners and equipment rental. Keith offered the following

Continued on page 15





# Photo Recap

# SFMANJ Spring Field Day

William Warren Park, Woodbridge NJ • April 26, 2023



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Before



After

### *It's Time to Get Back to It!*

The Viersma Companies is dedicated to servicing athletic fields from offering simple tune-ups to full field reconstruction. Although last year presented additional challenges, we were able to complete projects for both existing and new clients. These tune-ups, renovations and reconstruction projects included amending existing topsoil, drainage installation, built-up lip removal, laser grading and installing infield mix, as well as, sodding renovation projects and entire athletic fields. As we look forward to a great 2021 season, let us know if we can assist you in any way.



After



# 2023 Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Turf Field Day:

Including SFMANJ-Sponsored Trade Show and Equipment Demonstrations  
Rutgers Adelphia Research Farm, Freehold, NJ

## Stop #9. SFMANJ-Sponsored Equipment Demonstrations

12:00 PM to 1:00 PM

### Stop #10. Influence of application methods on postemergence weed control

Speaker: Dr. Matt Elmore and Mr. Dan Tuck

Presentation Synopsis: The presentation will discuss the effect of different application methods and carrier volumes on postemergence broadleaf weed and crabgrass control. Field trials showcasing low and high carrier volume applications compared to a standard volume will be presented. Low carrier volumes are designed to simulate ride-on sprayers and high-volume applications will simulate the "Chemlawn gun", both often used by applicators for postemergence weed control. Various herbicides and herbicide programs for broadleaf weed control and crabgrass control will be discussed.

### Stop #11. Weed Control in bareground areas

Speakers: Dr. Matt Elmore and Mr. Dan Tuck

Presentation Synopsis: Vegetation control in bare ground areas along fencelines, around structures, and similar areas is difficult, especially where traditional synthetic products or glyphosate cannot be used. This presentation will discuss different options for weed control where bare ground is desired. The discussion will focus on alternatives to glyphosate and minimum risk pesticides exempt from FIFRA registration, FIFRA 25(b) products. Attendees will view a trial where various products were applied to manage bare ground. The pros and cons of various herbicide options will be discussed.

### Stop #12. Brown Patch Management in Tall Fescue Lawn Height

Speaker: Dr. Ming-Yi Chou and Mr. Kyle Genova

Presentation Synopsis: Participants will learn about best management practices for the control of Brown Patch, one of the most important diseases in Tall Fescue lawns in the United States, as well as the chemical control measures of this devastating disease. The presentation will focus on understanding favorable environmental conditions for disease development and the impacts of cultural practices such as irrigation, fertility and mowing regimes to minimize disease severity. Fungicides efficacy for Brown Patch control and the fungicide programming such as fungicide modes of action, application rate, interval and timing will also be highlighted in this presentation.

1:00 PM TO 2:00 PM

## LUNCH

2:00 PM to 3:30 PM

### Optional CORE: Granular & Liquid Calibration Training

Speaker: Robert Shinn, Tim Sibicky, and Mark Sybouts

Presentation Synopsis: This will be practical hands-on training. Demonstrating proper techniques to improve

Results and reduce application variances to below 10%.

#### Granular Rotary Spreader Hands on Training

1. Proper Spreader Technique
2. Determining Effective Spreader Swath
3. Mark out test plot based on Effective Spreader Swath
4. Calibration Test
5. Measure Results
6. Adjustments if needed
7. Protecting the environment

#### Back Pack Sprayer Calibration Hands on Training

1. Proper Spray Technique
2. Determining Effective Sprayer Swath
3. CFV – Control Flow Valve for consistent flow rates
4. Mark out test plot based on Effective Sprayer Swath
5. Calibration Test
6. Measure Results

#### Ride-On Spreader Sprayer (Steel Green) Demonstration for Turf Hands on Training

1. How does a spreader-sprayer work
2. Proper Spray Technique
3. Determining Effective Sprayer Swath
4. Bucket Check
5. Determining Effective Spreader Swath
6. Mark out test plot based on Effective Spreader & Sprayer Swath
7. Calibration Test
8. Measure Results
9. Adjustments if needed.

# More from the SFMANJ Spring Field Day



# R

## Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Turf Including SFMANJ-sponsored Trade Show & Equipment Demonstrations

July 26, 2023  
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## Do you have SFMANJ's Field of the Year? TELL US ABOUT IT

- The playability and appearance of the playing surfaces
- Your maintenance program
- What you did to improve your field
- Your yearly budget for this field

The Winner will receive free registration and one nights stay at the New Jersey Turfgrass and Landscape Conference & Expo in December. The winner and runners up will be honored with a plaque at Expo and will be featured in an article in SFMANJ's newsletter, Update.

*To be eligible you must be a member of SFMANJ and must represent a School or Park Natural Grass Field Please include the name, location and owner of the facility, along with your name, position, and contact number.*

**Download form on our web site - [www.sfmanj.org](http://www.sfmanj.org)**

Submissions by mail or e-mail  
**MUST** be received by **SEPTEMBER 30**

**MAIL ENTRIES TO:**  
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## 2022 WINNER

**Williamstown-Monroe Twp. School Dist.**  
**GEORGE ORMSBY MEMORIAL STADIUM**  
**FOOTBALL FIELD**  
**Joseph Anderson III, Grounds Manager**

# 2022 Field of the Year

regarding his maintenance plan. "I cut the grass every other day when there are games. I irrigate the turf and infield skin as needed. The April fertilization includes a pre-emergent. May includes a pre and post-emergent. June includes an insect control and Gypsum. September includes a fertilization only and November includes a fertilization and Dolomitic Lime application. From August 2021, I created a warning track all the way around the field.



The third Field of Distinction is the Baseball Field, Field #3 at Raritan Bay Waterfront Park by Larry Mayerowitz, General Supervisor for the Middlesex County Parks Department. Larry stated, "Baseball field #3 consists of a combination of Ryegrass, Kentucky Bluegrass and Tall Fescue. The infield is grass with dirt basepaths, mound and batter's boxes. While there is no set design in the outfield, the field is never mowed the same way or direction twice. The field is used 7 days per week by different youth and men's leagues from the end of March until November.

Larry noted, "The yearly budget for Baseball #3 is \$2,500.00. This budget provides grass seed, fertilizer, infield mix, red warning track material and chalk for lining the field. Additionally, the total man hours of labor on this field is \$15,000 per year.

Regarding his maintenance program, Larry stated, "Grass maintenance starts in early spring when Crabgrass control and fertilizer are administered to the field in late March or early April. Broadleaf weed control and fertilizer are added to the field at the end of May. At the start of fall in September, field staff over seeds the field. Additionally, the field is aerated every fall.

During the course of the year when the field is in use, the field is inspected daily for general maintenance. This includes spot spraying for weeds or insects. Also, the field is dragged whenever there is a scheduled league game or permit for the field. Staff repair the mound with clay before and after each game. Worn out areas, such as the front of the pitcher's mound, are re-sodded throughout the course of the year. The infield is also laser graded to ensure the infield is completely level. The field is irrigated as needed

All entrants should be proud of their accomplishments and continued efforts to not only improve their own fields, but to be an example of what it takes to be a 'Professional Sports Field Manager.'

The SFMANJ Field of the Year program recognizes the efforts of member sports turf managers throughout New Jersey. Applications for the 2023 Field of the Year are due by the end of September 2023 and are awarded at the NJ Green Expo in Atlantic City, NJ in early December. In addition to a plaque, the winner will receive a complimentary registration to all education sessions, the two-day trade show, dinner, and one night's lodging at the Borgata.

If you have any further questions regarding the program, please feel free to contact the SFMANJ office.

*Scott Bills is Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM); President, Sports Field Solutions, LLC; and Board Secretary, Sports Field Managers Association of NJ (SFMANJ)*

Consider submitting your field for the  
**2023 FIELD OF THE YEAR**  
 A simple entry form for Field of the Year  
 can be found on our website.

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Continued from page 7

# Managing Water for Playability - Part 3

## Conclusions

A trained, competent sports field manager can employ the finesse that is required to manage water for playability. Sports fields design parameters and construction methods are not always conducive to good drainage – and the costs and/or field down time necessary to improve these problems dictate that a sports field manager must often “work with what he or she’s got”. Case in point: Poor sports field drainage can be compounded with bad irrigation management; that is, a timer/clock programmed irrigation system may be allowed to deliver additional water following a natural rainfall event rendering a sports field unplayable. A sports field manager with site-specific experience will have the feel/finesse to properly irrigate a poorly drained sports field to maintain plant vigor yet provide good playability on a surface that is highly susceptible to being compromised with over-watering.

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*Brad Park is Research & Outreach Agronomist, Rutgers University; a member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors; and Editor, SFMANJ Update newsletter*

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# COMMITTEES:

## Crucial to Sports Field Management Association's (SFMA) Future

Editor's Note: This article appeared in the News Online section of the Sports Field Management Association (SFMA) website on April 3, 2023 ([www.sportsfieldmanagement.org](http://www.sportsfieldmanagement.org))

Each year in early February, SFMA members are asked to volunteer for one or more committees. Using these submissions, President Sun Roesslein, CSFM, has recently appointed the chairs and seated our volunteers. Committees will begin their work in April.

Each committee has a yearly "charge." Some committee charges do not change, such as the Nominating Committee; other committees change yearly to address SFMA's strategic direction.

Thank you to the Chairs of these committees for 2023.

**Advocacy:** To recommend outreach efforts to advance the profession and highlight the work of the sports field manager. A specific goal for this year is to create materials to be used in outreach efforts by SFMA Ambassadors.

Chair: Zachary Holm, CSFM

**Awards:** To judge the association's awards program applicants selecting the Field of the Year winners and to develop strategies to enhance the program.

Co-chairs: Jason DeMink, CSFM and Jeremy Driscoll, CSFM

**Certification:** (CSFM and/or Academic Members Only) To develop strategies to grow the number of certified members; to consistently monitor the program and recommend enhancements to ensure that the program is the top achievement for sports field managers.

Chair: Brian Bornino, CSFM

**Chapter Relations:** To create a chapter structure that is beneficial locally and nationally; to financially assist chapters with their administrative, operations and educational efforts; to facilitate the sharing of best practices; to utilize the chapter structure to effectively deliver services.

Chair: Jason Bowers, CSFM

**Commercial Advisory Council:** To provide a forum to exchange ideas on how SFMA can better serve and engage its commercial members and how this segment can help to advance the association; to develop strategies to engage commercial members in the annual exhibition and provide value for doing so.

Chair: Paula Sliefert

**Conference Education:** To develop all content, sessions and workshops and select speakers and moderators for the next year's conference that will make it a "must attend" event for members and nonmembers; to recommend strategies that will drive attendance to the exhibition and will add value to exhibitors.

Chair: Chase Straw, Ph.D.

**Conference Tours:** To select and organize off-site tours at the annual conference site.

Chair: Jody Gill, CSFM

**Editorial:** To ensure that the SFMA magazine contains information relevant to the sports field manager; to provide ideas and contacts for articles for publication.

Chair: Brad Thedens, CSFM

**Environmental:** To develop environmental strategies that position SFMA and its members as leaders in environmental stewardship and the related health and safety issues that impact fans and players.

Co-chairs: Vickie Wallace and Zack Holm, CSFM

**Finance & Audit:** To provide oversight of the SFMA's financial resources by reporting information to the Board of Directors.

Chair: Adam Thoms, Ph.D.

**Historical:** To preserve the history of the association and the profession.

Chair: John Mascaro.

**Information Outreach (Learning Initiatives):** To develop educational and informational opportunities for members to enhance their personal and professional development.

Chair: Alpha Jones, CSFM

**Innovative Awards Judging:** To judge the innovative awards program, ensure a fair judging process and enhance the program as necessary.

Chair: Jason Craft, CSFM

**International:** To position SFMA as a global leader in sports facility management and make SFMA the 'go-to' resource for those who work internationally in the industry.

Chair: Simon Gumbrill

**Membership:** To develop initiatives to drive membership growth and retention; to recommend programs that add value for each member.

Chair: Erin Boyd Wilder

**Nominating:** The Nominating Committee shall present to the membership by written notice a slate of qualified candidates for the Board of Directors, and place those names in nomination.

Chair: Sarah Martin, CSFM

*Continued on page 18*

# COMMITTEES:

Crucial to Sports Field Management Association's (SFMA) Future

**Student Challenge:** To develop the annual student challenge exam protocols and assist in proctoring the exam as needed.

Chair: Sarah Martin, CSFM

**Technical Standards:** To help determine standards and best management practices needed in the profession; to guide the work of ASTM on developing sports field and facility standards.

Chair: Pam Sherratt.

**Technology Team (Website, Social Media):** To oversee SFMA's communication platforms to insure they are current, cohesive and serve members' needs; to ensure members are educated on the latest communication technology.

Chair: Ryan DeMay, CSFM

# ATTENTION MEMBERS!



## SFMANJ Update is looking for authors.

Please feel free to send Brad Park, Editor, SFMANJ Update (bradley.s.park@rutgers.edu) and/or Debbie Savard, SFMANJ Executive Secretary (mail@sfmanj.org)

**an article regarding your fields, your experiences, your problems and your surprises.**

SFMANJ Update can accommodate articles of differing lengths and welcomes pictures. The SFMANJ Membership will benefit from reading your story.

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# 2023 Calendar of Events

**Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Days  
Golf & Fine Turf**  
July 25, 2023  
Rutgers Hort Farm No. 2  
North Brunswick, NJ

**Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Turf  
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**New Jersey Green Expo Turf &  
Landscape Conference**  
December 5-7, 2023  
Borgata Hotel & Casino  
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**NJ State League of Municipalities**  
November 14-16, 2023  
Atlantic City, NJ  
609.695.3481  
[www.njlm.org](http://www.njlm.org)

**2024 Sports Field Management Association  
Conference & Exhibition**  
January 22 - 25, 2024  
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