

## Managing baseball, football fields

It's important for a school or park athletic field manager to know the age of people using a baseball field. The height of the pitcher's mound and the age of the athlete can make a difference in injuries, according to sports physical therapist Allan Brown, of Brunswick, Maine.

If you're working with young kids, "keep it flat," Brown says. "Encourage no kicking out the hole in front of the mound."

The higher the mound, or the deeper the hole, the more speed on the ball. But higher mounds or deeper holes also create a higher torque for the arm. Such a powerful thrusting motion can cause shoulder injuries, especially in younger athletes.

Brown encourages turf managers to work closely with coaches and trainers. "If a kid complains of a painful arm, go look at the mound," he says. "Suggest to the coach that the kid throws on a flat surface for a while."

Brown also encourages turf managers to work closely with coaches in repairing divots and holes on a football field which can cause ankle injuries. "Eighty-six percent of ankle sprains rotate outwards, often because of uneven terrain," Brown explains. The nerve endings in previously sprained ankles "forget" to stay balanced. When the foot comes down in a divot, the ankle will twist again.

"You can help as a turf professional by keeping the terrain even," Brown says. He also suggests that coaches advise athletes to wear 15-spike molded shoes whether they play on artificial or natural surfaces. That type of shoe distributes the friction between the leg and the surface.

The turf manager gets off easy on the problem of shin splints, however. Brown says most cases are not caused by the surface but by a "biomechanical problem in the athlete's lower extremities."

Brown spoke at the Maine Turf Conference in Portland, Maine.

## Regional seminar in Illinois

The Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) will hold a regional seminar at the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn June 22. To receive further information or to register, contact Susan Glasgow at (312) 858-2800, ext. 2770.

## Memberships available

Memberships are available in the STMA, which was formed in 1981. Cost for professional sports turf facility managers are \$50 per year. Educators/parks/schools pay just \$30 and students \$10. Commercial affiliates may obtain a membership for \$100. Checks should be sent to the STMA at 400 North Mountain Ave. Suite 301, Upland, CA 91786. For questions, call the STMA at (714) 981-9199.

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established standard."

Established standards will have benefits to owners and managers as well as contractors. They will lead to better looking projects, less complaints from tenants and less vandalism, Heiny notes. This in turn leads to lower replacement costs in the future.

Heiny brings up another point. "What is the first thing an owner does when he gets ready to sell a property?" he asks. "He jazzes up the landscape."

Heiny suggested a number of maintenance standards:

- Plants, irrigation, etc., should be maintained in a high standard at all times.

- A short monthly summary of work done on a property should be filed. This, Heiny says, results in quicker payment and reduced liability.

- Overall appearance should be good: uniformed employees, clean trucks and equipment.

## LEGISLATION

### Chemical producers blast EPA program

In testimony before representatives of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Washington, D.C., Warren Stickle called for changes in the agency's Endangered Species program.

The EPA is holding a series of hearings to gather suggestions for improving its plan to protect endangered species from agricultural chemicals. Stickle is executive director of the Chemical Producers and Distributors Association.

"Despite the merits of the Endangered Species Act, we seem to be pursuing a program of implementation that is out of proportion to the real needs of endangered species," Stickle told the EPA. "In many cases, it is like attempting to swat a fly sitting on a glass table with a 16-pound sledgehammer."

The Endangered Species Act would outlaw pesticide applications in certain areas of the country where endangered species live or visit.

Specific recommendations made by Stickle included updating habitat information, correcting county maps and establishing a training and certification for pesticide applicators. "Alternatives to the prohibition-of-use approach should be considered," said Stickle. "The unnecessary removal of pesticides creates an economic hardship without enhancing the goal of protecting species."