

ATHLETIC TURF

ASTM to review field safety

The American Society of Testing Materials will hold a symposium on the safety of natural and artificial playing fields. Although the conference will take place in December, the deadline for submitting abstracts on research is June 1.

The purpose of the symposium is to provide a forum for technical information on artificial and natural playing surface characteristics and safety. ASTM is inviting researchers to present papers on physical and functional properties; construction; maintenance; safety; economics; research; injuries; and comparisons of surfaces. Priority will be given to papers emphasizing research, case studies and information on how to choose the most appropriate type of turf for a particular application.

Related topics include:

- Case studies of injury data relating to artificial or natural turf.
- Turf characteristics, selection and best use and safety most likely to be encountered in the end application; and interpretation of those results.
- Unusual testing programs that incorporate several of the various environmental considerations encountered.
- Research on turf improvements.
- Field test methods for determination of field safety.
- Maintenance recommendations for playing fields.

The symposium, to be held in Phoenix, Ariz., on Dec. 6, 1988, is being sponsored by ASTM Committee F-8 on Sports Equipment and Facilities.

For more information on submitting and presenting papers at the symposium contact: Theresa Smoot, ASTM, 1916 Race St., Philadelphia, PA 19103; (215) 299-5413 before June 1, 1988.

Hardness measurements continue

The task of quantitatively measuring the hardness of athletic fields continues. "When people can see a number, they can make a measurement," says Trey Rogers, a graduate student at Penn State University.

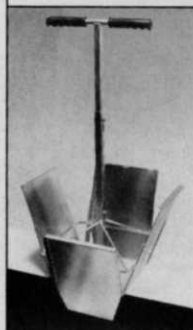
Studies conducted by Rogers are beginning to provide some data. From it, he came to some general conclusions:

- practice fields are harder than game fields;
- fields are harder inside the hashmarks;
- and there is a strong association between management practices, construction and hardness levels.

Rogers collected data at 12 test schools, testing two locations per field—inside and outside the hash marks. Testing was conducted in November 1986, March 1987, June 1987, August 1987 and November 1987.

Factors included in the testing were compaction, aeration, moisture, cutting height, vegetation, species, test hammer weight and thatch. Rogers presented preliminary data at the GCSAA Convention in Houston.

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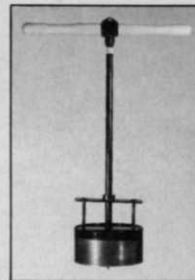
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