

president's message

Why?

Being an inquisitive sort, there are few questions that have been puzzling me over the years for which I've never had a good answer. If you know, please tell me.

Have you ever wondered, as I have:

- * Why is the grass always greener inside the coach's box?
- * Why, with two acres available, do baseball (and softball) players have to line up on the foul lines to warm up?
- * Why do sports field managers get blamed for the bad hops, but don't get the credit for all the good hops?
- * Why is the faster player still not the faster player if the grass is cut higher?
- * Why do we cover beautifully maintained green turf with painted logos?
- * Why is the other facility or field always better than yours, at least according to the people you work for?
- * Why is your opinion valued across the country but not at your own facility?
- * Why does everyone know more about how to do your job than you do?
- * Why are we the only ones having problems with our field?
- * Why chalk batters' box when no one stays in it?
- * Why do fans destroy their own field after a big win?
- * Why do football teams practice at the same spot on the field or go in the same direction every day?
- * Why repair the hole at the pitchers' mound and home plate when they are dug out almost immediately as soon as the game starts?
- * Why are we expected to know what the weather is going to be when the weather forecasters don't?
- * If we are responsible for the condition of the field, why are we the last people consulted, if at all, about its use?
- * Why do on deck hitters warm up in the grass when the batters box is made of dirt?
- * Why do people not understand you can wear a field out?
- * Why is it that the great players don't slip on your field, or anybody's field, for that matter?
- * Why don't people understand that an athletic field also needs a vacation?
- * If artificial turf is better than grass, why does it not smell as good as freshly mowed grass?

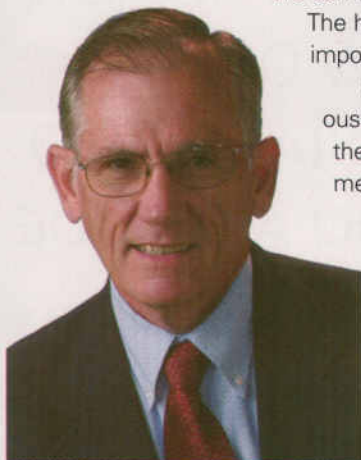
All these questions aside, the last and most important question I want an answer to is this: Why are we sports turf managers? Here is my answer:

Almost all of us are sports field managers because of our love of the game. We are committed to providing the best playing fields possible for all levels of play.

The health of every athlete and the integrity of every game are of equal importance.

Every day we strive for the perfect field. We take the challenge seriously to make the field the best possible for the next game, regardless of the amount of abuse a field may take. There is a sense of accomplishment in that challenge that is not present in all occupations.

That, of course, is something called PRIDE, pride in ourselves and in our profession.



BOB CAMPBELL, CSFM

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Bob

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