

# Top 5

## Painting Recommendations, Part 2



Eric Fasbender, CSFM, University of Oregon

**W**e asked several top turf managers for their "Top 5" recommendations when it comes to painting or marking their football fields. We shared some last issue; here are some others:

### Jay Warnick, CSFM on field painting

I have learned especially of late that painting a field is not just about a paint machine and some liquid that comes in a 5-gallon

bucket. It is part of the field system and contributes or detracts from the overall quality of a field in the same way that mowing, fertilizing, and aerating can.

Field managers should realize the potential that painting will have in relation to the safety, playability, and aesthetics of any playing surface. Here are some tips:

**Safety.** Poor quality paint applied repeatedly on a field will lead to turf die-back, which in turn will impact the footing and stability of

the field. Also, paint applied with improper equipment and technique can lead to a change in surface abrasion, hardness, and footing on natural and synthetic surfaces.

**Playability.** Field managers have the important responsibility of "setting up the game board" by using painted lines and markings. Field markings establish the parameters by which the game is played and poorly applied field markings can impact the quality of an event, and even more serious; the eventual outcome.

**Aesthetics.** Few things convey the professionalism of the sports turf manager more to the public than the sight of a freshly mowed field of deep green turf with gleaming, crisply painted white lines. Add to those bright, colorful logos, and the feeling of pride that comes over fans and players and your staff is unmistakable.

*Jay Warnick, CSFM is a former NFL turf manager who now works for World Class Paints.*

## Top 5: Painting infill fields

### 1. Be sure that you are using "infill friendly" paint.

Sometimes it is overwhelming to think about all the paint that is on the market and available to the sports turf manager today. If you have to paint an infill surface like we do at the University of Oregon, there are some things that you will want to check before you start letting the paint fly.

There are many national suppliers that offer special paint that is manufactured specifically

for artificial fields. Some of these are removable and others are permanent. It will also depend on the brand how you get the removable paint off. Some require only soap and water while others will need to be treated with a solvent and scrubbed to remove them. Whatever type of paint you decide to use, make sure that you understand the consequences involved with what you put on your field to mark it (this goes for grass too). I would also be remiss if I didn't mention that it is also a good idea to check with the manufacturer of your synthetic surface to see if they have any recommendations on field marking paint.

### 2. Use a base coat for brighter, more vibrant colors.

If you have ever painted an endzone or mid-field logo and rushed to the top of your stadium to see what it looks like, only to be disappointed with the intensity of the color, try using a base coat before you put down the good stuff.

I first learned this trick when I was a student

at the University of Tennessee and I have carried it with me every step of the way. The dark green color of turf will have a tendency to dull some of the lighter colors like yellow, orange, and red. By putting a white base coat down before you paint, you will increase the vibrant look of the colors. We will spray a primer coat before we paint any of our mid-field logos for the first time each season or when we start to see the logos fade because we have not had a game in a while. With this method, your logos will look better and you will have to use less paint in the process.

### 3. Use a cardboard or Lexan "shield" when painting logos and numbers.

There is nothing worse than painting a logo, stepping back to admire the work you just did, only to notice a yellow halo in the direction the wind was blowing. Making a shield out of cardboard or Lexan can easily prevent this.

What ever you use to protect against overspray, it should be flexible enough to contour to any logos or numbers that you have on your

## THE GAME MUST GO ON.



An Airfield is the ultimate sports turf drainage system whether you are playing on natural or artificial turf.

#### Artificial Turf Benefits:

- Drains remarkably faster
- Reduces installation time
- Reduces G-Max
- Eliminates rubber migration
- Eliminates standing water
- Strong enough for vehicles
- Below entire playing surface
- Air void for heating and cooling
- Allows flushing and sanitizing
- Maintains level playing surface

#### Natural Turf Benefits:

- Drains remarkably faster
- Reduces installation time
- Reduces irrigation requirements
- Extends playing season
- Eliminates standing water
- Reduces maintenance costs
- Below entire playing surface
- Superior perched water table
- Greater root mass
- Gas circulation through soil



405.359.3775  
airfieldsystems.com

Fill in 132 on reader service form or visit <http://oners.hotims.com/13972-132>

## Pioneer

P: 800.877.1500  
F: 800.877.1511  
[www.pioneerathletics.com](http://www.pioneerathletics.com)



## Star Liner



The perfect striper and paint combination for coaches, parents and volunteers who need field lines in a flash

- "Plug & Stripe" technology for no fuss and no mess striping
- Compact and portable for easy transport
- Easy-to-use for anyone
- Battery operated and long-lasting
- Self-storing design ideal for small spaces
- Brilliant and resilient white paint featuring Halogen® 2000 optical brighteners

Fill in 133 on reader service form or visit <http://oners.hotims.com/13972-133>

field and it should be high enough to catch any over-spray that might be created. We use a 3 x 6-foot piece of 1/8-inch plastic signage that was left by one of our advertisers. It is perfect because it is flexible and is lightweight, making it easy to handle. We will paint all of our yard lines and once that has been completed, we have one person spray the paint for our logos and the other will hold the shield.

We also use smaller pieces of plastic for detailed logos that we have to put down. Using a shield will help your colors and logos stay true and looking good for game time.

#### 4. When painting in the rain, aerosol can save the day!

I have had to become really familiar with this one living in the Pacific Northwest. It rains in Eugene about seven or eight months out of the year and we still have to have our practice and game fields looking their best even when the weather is the worst. We quickly learned that by using aerosol spray cans, the paint was practical-



The University of Georgia logo, courtesy of World Class Paints

ly dry once it hit the turf. Even in steady drizzle we could walk across lines and logos shortly after they had been painted and not track any of the paint across the field. We now keep a full aerosol inventory of White, Black, Lightning Yellow and Duck Green on hand just in case the weather does not cooperate.

#### 5. The tape measure is your friend.

Measure twice, paint once! I honestly believe that there is no tougher task for a sports

turf manager than the initial layout of a football field. This is probably because if you make a mistake measuring one of the yard lines it gets compounded 20 times. Measure twice, paint once is one of the credos for the Duck's crew!

We have standard benchmarks that we use to layout all of our fields. We triangulate the field corners and yard lines based on fixed points that are on our concrete field border. Once the field has been laid out and strung, we go over all the dimensions with our measuring tape one more time to ensure everything is correct. You do not only want to double check your field dimensions, but also any logos that will be going on your field. Be sure that they are square and centered left to right and up and down. If you take the few minutes to double check your layout, there will be less chance you have to spend hours correcting a mistake.

*From Eric Fasbender, CSFM University of Oregon*

#### Tip top shape

The best single piece of advice I can give is to work with a supplier that can support you on all facets of sports field striping: supplying field striping specific paint for the budget and surface you are working with, quality line striping equipment, custom stencils, etc. Sometimes you run into challenges where there is just no substitute for good advice. By working with someone that is experienced with the challenges unique to sports fields you can avoid having to learn a lot of things the hard way.

One of the most common problems I see is users not monitoring the condition of their airless spray tips. As a tip wears the spray pattern goes from a flat fan shape to a rounded shape. The rounded pattern delivers a lot more paint to the middle of the stripe than needed, wasting much of the paint. One of the many benefits of using high quality field striping specific paints is decreased spray tip wear. Lower quality paints have abrasive filler materials in them that increase the rate of tip wear.

And while we are on the topic of tip wear, make sure you keep the pressure set only as high as necessary to atomize the paint (assuming your sprayer offers pressure controls). Excess pressure is sometimes used because it can help blow grass clippings off the area to be striped. In fact, by only using enough pressure to atomize the paint will still clear the turf under the spray pattern. ■

*From Mark Malloy, Director of Marketing for Airlessco.*

## EnkamatPlus®

Sideline Mat & Concert Cover

Tougher

fabric for the

Toughest

crowd

New &  
Improved

Toll Free: 800-365-7391

COLBOND

Web: [www.colbond-usa.com](http://www.colbond-usa.com)

Fill in 134 on reader service form or visit <http://oners.hotims.com/13972-134>

## QUICK TIPS

- Mow before painting
- Keep mowing to a minimum after painting
- Water the mowed area after painting
- Mix paint thoroughly
- Make sure paint machine, tips and screens are clean
- Always strain any paint!
- "Dot" your stencils with aerosol, it dries fast, doesn't puddle on the plastic
- Keep stencils off turf as much as possible
- Paint logos from the inside out

*From Greg Narmour, World Class Paint*

## YOUR PRE-GAME MVP.

**Krylon Line-Up® Striping Paint.** For a wide range of high-quality striping paints, Krylon's a winner on and off the field. Other benefits include:

- High Quality: New improved formula provides a one-coat, bright white stripe
- Color Selection: A wide range of options to match your team colors
- New Universal Tip: Fits all striping machines



For more information, visit <http://go.kpgind.info/sg2>.

**KRYLON**  
INDUSTRIAL  
PAINTS, COATINGS  
AND PRIMERS

**Sprayon**  
CLEANERS,  
DEGREASERS, LUBES  
AND SEALANTS

**TRI-FLOW**  
SUPERIOR  
LUBRICANTS

**WHITE LIGHTNING**  
CAULKS, SEALANTS  
AND ADHESIVES

**Rubberset**  
BRUSHES, ROLLER COVERS  
AND ACCESSORIES

**KRYLON**  
INDUSTRIAL  
**Krylon Products Group**  
Cleveland, OH 44115  
Tel: 1-800-777-2966  
Fax: 1-800-243-3075  
[www.KPG-Industrial.com](http://www.KPG-Industrial.com)

Fill in 127 on reader service form or visit <http://oners.hotims.com/13972-127>