

## From the Sidelines

# Off-field maintenance means TRASH



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**W**e used email to poll some members of the Sports Turf Managers Association about their biggest off-field maintenance headaches. Here are the best responses:

Collecting trash daily is one of our jobs. These days when school is in session it takes us 2 to 3 1/2 hours to pick up trash, and that's just the athletic grounds areas. This does not include cleanup after events; cleaning the stadium takes longer! If we put these hours together back-to-back, each day, it comes to 10 to 17 1/2 hours a week for one person and we usually have at least two or three people picking up trash. We could be spending 30 to 35 hours more a week on our fields. — *John from the Midwest*

We are responsible for staffing security and trash cleanup for all rentals of the athletic fields. We have a landscape company do all of the mowing of the common ground, flowerbeds, etc., whatever is not an athletic field. When it snows we must have the parking lot cleared before 6 AM so our teams can still practice and our administration doesn't slip on the ice. After that we remove the snow from our two synthetic fields.

Collecting trash is what I dislike most. I receive the most negative comments from my supervisors regarding trash. We must have all trash removed before 9 AM when the administration gets into work. If not, I usually get a call that morning. We have now started tracking our hours specifically for trash so if I am questioned I can produce how many man-hours that week and amount of trash collected. — *Josh from the Atlantic Coast*

We do not mind hauling trashcans full of sticky, stinking garbage; that comes with the territory. However, we are extremely resentful of having to pick trash up off of the ground, thrown away by parents, adult players, and children when trashcans are nearby, clean, empty, and waiting.

The disrespect shown by these cretins and the lack of parenting skills, lack of respect for property of others, and a general "I do not give a damn about anything but me" attitude will continue to pull us into a black hole cesspool of civilization, if you can call it civilization, at an alarming rate. — *Dave from the Midwest*

Picking the trash off the ground, around the empty trash barrels that are located every 100 feet, never mind the recycling that has trash throughout it. — *Peter from New England*

The least favorite job for us is inventorying old computer equipment for the entire athletic department and palletizing them to be recycled. It's not a strenuous job but it is hard to figure out why we ended up with that responsibility. It's a huge waste of time for us. — *Jason from Rocky Mountains*

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