

Benefits of certification verified

Editor's note: This is the second of six installments on how becoming a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM) can benefit turf managers professionally as well as improve their facilities.

HOW DID YOU PREPARE FOR THE CSFM EXAM?

Savard: I read and reread the 20-page, detailed CSFM Competency list. It became clear to me which areas I knew and which I needed to work on. I acquired and read most of the books and materials that are recommended as study guides. I used the internet and read everything I could about sports field management. I even took an online soils course at the local community college. In total, I spent about a year preparing for the exam. Besides passing the test, the real payoff was that I actually learned things that I use every day.

HOW DID YOU APPROACH YOUR EMPLOYER TO SUPPORT YOUR CERTIFICATION, BOTH FINANCIALLY AND IN THE TIME NEEDED TO PREPARE FOR THE EXAM?


Savard: My employer had little involvement in my pursuit of my certification. I had my own motivation to seek and ultimately become certified.

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO PURSUE CERTIFICATION?

Savard: It had been a goal of mine for some time. I really wanted to see how I measured up against other sports field managers. Presently there are more than 20 CSFMs representing the various segments of our membership. Each CSFM passed a difficult test proving that they possess a level of knowledge. All of the questions on the test are things that sports field managers actually encounter. Passing the CSFM exam boosted my confidence and validated my knowledge and skill set.

HOW HAS CERTIFICATION HELPED YOUR CAREER?

Savard: I work for a private high school. Whenever I request funding or make a proposal, I found I have more credibility as a CSFM than I would have as "the guy who works outside taking care of the fields." In addition, it has expanded my network through my involvement with my local Chapter and by serving on STMA committees. I have become acquainted with people who I otherwise would not have met. Not only do I have trusted colleagues I can call when I need answers, but some of them even consult with me. ■




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