

Benefits of certification verified

Editor's note: This is the last 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?

Frever: I studied notes, tests and books, preserved in my bookcase, from my turfgrass management courses at Michigan State University. Other study sources, saved in my bookcase, are conference proceedings and sports turf topics, both in periodical



"CSFM status facilitated sponsorship from my employer for continued professional development with the Great Lakes Leadership Academy. The 2-year program, coordinated by Michigan State's Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, finished with a capstone experience in Spain," says Frever, pictured here at Plaza de Toros de la Maestranza Bullring in Seville.

form. Looking over test guides and practicing math examples provided by the STMA and the State of Michigan, for the pesticide applicators test, was very helpful. In some cases, especially math, I searched for more material with the Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) at the MSU Libraries. A quick link is provided on your STMA member page.

How did you approach your employer to support your certification, both financially and in the time needed to prepare for the exam?

Frever: The support for the STMA from my employer was my number one priority when I first interviewed and taking the CSFM exam was established as a mutual goal. It was never a matter of approaching my employer because my employer is engaged in my participation with the local STMA chapter and national conferences. My employer understands what I expect to learn at events when I requested financial support and would

receive a debriefing of my experiences shortly after I return. Even more employer engagement can be developed, if you can host a local STMA event and invite key people from your organization to attend.

Why did you decide to pursue certification?

Frever: The four letters, CSFM, identifies you as a member of an international community of professionals committed to a common goal. I wanted to be a part of that community and promote our profession.

How has certification helped your career?

Frever: The certification has opened up opportunities, like this, to share experiences. It has also identified me with local coaches, parents, faculty, administrators, and fellow groundskeepers as a person to call for advice. I enjoy spreading the gospel of safe athletic fields and I take every chance to speak with people willing to learn. ■

STMA Affiliated Chapters Contact Information

Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona:
Chris Walsh cwalsh@scottsdaleaz.org

Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association:
www.cstma.org

Florida #1 Chapter (South): 305-235-5101 (Bruce Bates)

Florida #2 Chapter (North): 850/580-4026.

Florida #3 Chapter (Central): 863-665-5800

Gateway Chapter Sports Turf Managers Association:
www.gatewaystma.org. (See Expanded Profile included in Chapter Highlights)

Georgia Sports Turf Managers Association:
www.gstma.org.

Greater L.A. Basin Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association: www.stmalabasin.com.

Illinois Chapter STMA: www.ILSTMA.org.

Intermountain Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association: www.imstma.org.

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association:
www.iowaturfgrass.org.

Kentucky Sports Turf Managers Association:
www.kystma.org.

Keystone Athletic Field Managers Org. (KAFMO/STMA):
www.kafmo.org.

Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MiSTMA):
www.mistma.org.

Mid Atlantic Sports Turf Managers Association (MASTMA) (formerly the Chesapeake Chapter STMA)
Ph. 410-704-2197 www.mastma.org

Minnesota Chapter STMA: www.mstma.com.

MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association:
www.mokanstma.com. (See Expanded Profile included in Chapter Highlights)

Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association:
402/441-4425.

New England STMA (NESTMA): www.nestma.org.

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey:
www.sfmanj.org.

Sports Turf Managers of New York: www.stmony.org.

North Carolina Chapter of STMA: www.ncsportsturf.org.

Northern California STMA: www.norcalstma.org.

Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA):
www.ostma.org.

Oregon STMA Chapter: 503/953-9406

Ozarks STMA: www.ozarksstma.org.

Pacific Northwest Sports Turf Managers Association:
www.pnwstma.org.

Southern California Chapter: www.socalstma.com.

South Carolina Chapter of STMA: www.scstma.org.

Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA): www.tvstma.com.

Chapter Sponsors



Texas Sports Turf Managers Association: 866/897-8621.

Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association:
www.vstma.org.

Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association:
www.wstma.org. (See Expanded Profile included in Chapter Highlights)

Forming Chapters:

Indiana Chapter: Joey Stevenson,
jstevenson@indyindians.com

STMA International Affiliate Organizations:

National Parks, Singapore: www.nparks.gov.sg
Sports Turf Association, ON, CANADA
www.sportsturfassociation.com

Forming International Affiliate Organizations:

Irish Institute of Sport Surfaces
Institute of Groundsmanship