Benefits of certification verified

Editor’s note: This is another installment 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?

Andresen: My main preparation was to thoroughly review various books on Sports Turf Management, most notably “Sports Fields” by Puhalla, Krans, Goatley. I also reviewed notes of presentations and workshops (administrative content) that I’d attended in the past. The best preparation was having been in the profession for a period of years!

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

Andresen: I work for a university athletics department and we live in a culture that recognizes certifications in many different disciplines. It was an easy sell to get administration to understand the need for this level of professionalism in our department. I studied outside of work but they supported paying for the testing. The tide has turned a bit as I am now responsible for renewal fees. I, philosophically, think this is fair as the certification remains with me and is my responsibility.

Why did you decide to pursue certification?

Andresen: I felt responsible to achieve the highest level possible in our profession. I managed a student-based crew at the time and felt it important to continue my growth and education in every way possible (role model).

How has certification helped your career?

Andresen: In many different ways! The need for ISP’s has helped push me to be active within our STMA chapter and nationally. It has pushed me to participate within the chapter by writing articles, serving on committees and boards, helping with community service projects and to host events at our facility—all in the name of securing Industry Service Points. Needing Continuing Education Units to remain certified has become a great reason (excuse?) to attend workshops, conferences and seminars. I personally received a pay increase when I became certified but that might be rare.

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