

Ask a CSFM

Allen Johnson, CSFM, Fields Manager, Green Bay Packers

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?

Johnson: I did some reviewing of textbooks that I used when I went through Penn State's Advanced Turfgrass Management Certificate program; glanced over the highlights of each chapter and scanned the glossary. I also utilized the internet to learn more about other sports field dimensions/layouts. Additionally, I did a quick review of our state's commercial pesticide applicator's manual.

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

Johnson: Our organization had recently implemented a formal program of annual goal setting, so that was a natural fit to propose the certification status as an individual goal. They were completely supportive financially and I used rainy days to prepare for the exam.

Why did you decide to pursue certification?

Johnson: I wanted to show my employer how completely devoted I was at being the best sports turf manager that I could be. Taking the steps to earn that certification status was just another way at validating that to them.

How has certification helped your career?

Johnson: A few years ago, Wisconsin passed some legislation that required facilities like ours to write a nutrient management plan and the Certified Sports Field Manager status was one way of meeting the criteria to be qualified to write such a plan. Having already achieved the status, we didn't have to worry about bringing in someone else to write one for us. After educating those facts to my employer, I believe they were appreciative of the fact that I became certified. ■



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