

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?

Brewer: I prepared for the exam by going over the competencies posted online. I reviewed all of the information on the lists. With my education and experience I felt pretty comfortable with most of the information. There was stuff I wasn't sure about, and stuff I just didn't know or remember (sorry, professors!). I spent a majority of my study time on these topics reviewing different books, online resources, and old class notes. The couple of months leading up to the test, which I took at the national conference, are pretty laid back here in Burlington... not much to do outside when it is 0° with snow on the ground so I had time to review all of the information. When I showed up for the test I was a little nervous, but confident in my studies!

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

Brewer: My employer was supportive in

my certification. It was no problem for me to spend work time studying (remember... 0° and snow). If he didn't agree with the time spent for certification at least I was using the time to sharpen my mind and further my knowledge. Financially my employer paid for my trip to Orlando and my full conference registration, I paid for the certification myself. A fair trade I believe.

Why did you decide to pursue certification?

Brewer: I decided to pursue certification to show my dedication to professionalism and continuing education. I wanted to show that I am serious about my career. I wanted to challenge myself by taking the test and proving to myself that I could pass it. I also wanted to do something that will hopefully bring me more opportunities in the future.

How has certification helped your career?

Brewer: At this point I don't know if my career has been boosted by my certifica-



tion. I don't make a lot more money, haven't gotten "the" job, people don't salute me when I walk into a room, and nobody is asking me harder questions. I know that the value of my certification is there, I wouldn't have gotten it if I didn't think so. It will take time for more employers to recognize the benefits of having a certified manager, but don't worry there are a lot of employers that are already seeing the light. ■

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Mid Atlantic Sports Turf Managers Association (MASTMA) (formerly the Chesapeake Chapter STMA)
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