There are not two ballparks that are the same, so the clubs make the decision on the amount of netting and the type and the length.

Farrow said that one drawback to Dyneema or Spectra is that the fibers are slick and the coatings could wear off over time, leaving a gray fiber that is more difficult to see past. However, Farrow added that more high-level stadiums are going with Spectra because of the safety factor.

How much netting is enough?

Once you decide upon a netting material, the next—and perhaps more difficult question to answer—is how far the protective netting should extend.

"We don't make any recommendations regarding what the netting should cover or how far it should extend down the baselines," said Farrow. "The reason we don't make any recommendations is the same reason that parks will have to eventually extend the netting, and that is the litigious nature of our society. If I make a recommendation and say 'this is how far you need to go' and somebody gets hit five feet past that, guess who is named is in the lawsuit—me—because I made a professional recommendation."

Koch also said that liability issues are the reason his company avoids making recommendations on how far the netting should extend.

"There isn't a lot of information available," said Koch. "It's really up to the club and what they decide to do, and what the engineer or architect has decided would work best for them."

According to Farrow, Seamar relies on the buyer to determine how much netting is needed. However, he does offer the following advice to those who are in the market to purchase protective netting: "We ask for exact dimensions and we make it to fit exactly. And they better have their posts in before they call me. That is one of the big mistakes—they go by the blueprints and then say 'the posts are only off by 6 inches.' But 6 inches in a 40-foot span is a lot. If the net is too big it makes a big sail when the wind blows, and if it's too tight you will never get it to fit. When people call us, we get exact dimensions, inside post to inside post, and we find out how they will support it, whether there will there be vertical cables on the end and how it will be attached at the bottom."

Although netting manufacturers and suppliers typically don't make recommendations regarding how far to extend the nets, there are sources that provide some overall recommendations that parks can use to determine heights for protective fencing and netting.

John Knitta is senior editor at SPORTSTURF magazine.
FENCE GUARDS & WINDSCREEN
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Compliance Safety, Inc., a nationwide distributor of safety products for the outdoor workplace, offers two new rainwear products.
The new “Camouflage” Value Rain Suit provides a low-key appearance for grounds crews that is ideal for publicly visible work and keeps everyone comfortable in all weather conditions. The jacket and bib-style overall suit is constructed of rugged 30 mil PVC over polyester with a snap storm front, flap pockets and a snap-detachable hood with nylon drawstring. The new suit is also available in yellow.
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Compliance Safety/800-340-3413
www.compliancesafety.com
For information, circle 184

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“Master the Power and Beauty of Water” is a catalog containing new information on the following five product groups from Aquamaster: Celestial Fountains floating fountain aerators; Volcano floating surface aerators; Oxymax aeration systems; Ultimax aeration systems; air injectors; and hydrinixers.
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Aquamaster/800-683-3144
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West Coast Netting is the nation’s only manufacturer of knotted & woven netting and fabricator of steel range poles, all out of one shop. They manufacture three types of golf netting, nylon, polypropylene, and the new SPEC-SET, which has a breaking strength of more than 168 lbs.
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West Coast Netting/800-854-5741
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Envirometrics Systems/888-276-4104
www.envirometrics.ca
For information, circle 185

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SEAMAR's knotless black polyethylene baseball netting is extruded black so it stays black. With strong UV inhibitors in the twine, it lasts longer in the sun. It has a smooth knotless join at every mesh so it's easier to see through. It doesn't absorb water and it has less wind resistance than other netting. When cut square it offers a better view for the cameras and fans. Standard width is 20 ft., but custom sizes are cut to order. It comes in 46 ply (1.5mm) for heavy use and 30 ply (1.4mm) for light use. The smooth polyethylene doesn't create friction with baseballs, so the long lasting 46 ply is ideal for batting cages. Even the 30 ply can withstand winds up to 80 mph.
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www.landa.com
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AOSafety, Inc / 317-692-6542
www.aosafety.com
For information, circle 187

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Zanzel Laboratories, Inc / 800-401-4002
For information, circle 183

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www.aquatrols.com
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