

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dr. Gil Landry, Jr.

Providing for better and safer sports turf areas is a common goal of sports turf managers and athletic directors. As most athletic directors in modern times will tell you, a quality playing surface is a critical part of any athletic program. However, finding cost-effective ways to develop safe, high-quality playing surfaces is an obstacle that requires a team effort.



## Team Approach

Good channels of communication between the athletic director and the sports turf manager will improve the awareness of needs and methods of solving playing surface problems. We must develop a team approach. Some of the best high school and college playing fields I've seen in the past 12 years were those where the administration

---

***Some of the best high school and college playing fields I've seen in the past 12 years were those where the administration took a special interest in the field.***

---

(principal, athletic director, and coach) took a special interest in the field. They recognized that playing field conditions were an integral part of their program.

The need to understand the basics of turfgrass management (irrigation, fertilization, and mowing) are as important to quality playing surfaces as knowing how to block and tackle is to a successful football team. As spectators develop a better appreciation for any sport they have played, the same holds true for athletic directors understanding what kind of professional effort goes into making better and safer sports fields.

## Focus On Facility Safety

We have seen how college athletics have taken on a nearly "professional" emphasis among the athletes and their careers. This trend is beginning to show up in high school athletics as well. With amateur athletics receiving this much scrutiny, more attention is now being paid to the athlete's safety and the need for a quality playing surface.

Sports turf safety technology has developed greatly over the past decade. It is an ongoing project which requires a team effort by both sports turf managers and athletic directors.

## National Conference

One function of organizations such as STMA is the forging of relationships with organizations around common areas of interest. Such an opportunity is the Fourth Annual STMA Conference and Exhibition. Holding our annual conference concurrently with the National Federation of High School Athletic Directors enables each group to better serve its members, educationally and professionally. As Doug Pedan, past president of the

Colorado High School Athletic Directors said at the Colorado Sports Turf Institute this past June, "There is a need for a solid working relationship and communication between the athletic director and the turf grass manager." This concurrent conference allows for just that—interacting and networking.

Although both conferences have entirely separate programs, registered delegates from either organization are welcome to attend any STMA or National Federation events. The trade show is a combined effort of both organizations. Hopefully, this joint venture will cultivate communication professionalism—all staples of the STMA mission.

I encourage all sports turf managers to take this opportunity to meet with athletic directors from across the country. It's an excellent chance to build relations and openly discuss and share ideas regarding sports turf. □

---

***Sports turf safety technology has developed greatly over the past decade. It is an ongoing project which requires a team effort by both sports turf managers and athletic directors.***

---

**Sports  
Turf  
Managers Association**