

2010 NFLPA Playing Surfaces Opinion Survey

NO MATTER WHICH SIDE YOU TAKE on the current labor situation in the National Football League, or if like most people you just shake your head over egos that can't divide up \$9 billion, we can all agree on one thing—results of the annual playing surface opinion survey the players' union conducts sure are interesting! The survey was conducted by the NFLPA at team meetings during September through November 2010. A total of 1619 active NFL Players from all 32 teams voluntarily participated. Here are selected results from the latest version:

Which surface do you think is more likely to contribute to injury?

- Grass 15.9%
- Artificial Infilled 82.4%

Which surface do you think causes more soreness and fatigue to play on?

- Grass 9.2%
- Artificial Infilled 89.1%

Which surface do you think is more likely to shorten your career?

- Grass 7.6%
- Artificial Infilled 89.7%

What type of field do you prefer to play on?

- Grass 69.4%
- Artificial Infilled 14.3%
- No preference 9%

How significant a role do you believe NFL grounds keepers play in the performance of NFL grass playing surfaces?

- 75% say "very significant"

How significant a role do you believe NFL grounds keepers play in the performance of NFL artificial infilled playing surfaces?

- 23.7% say "very significant"

How much do you value your grounds crew's work on your practice fields?

- 73.3% say "strongly value"

MOST RE-OCCURRING COMMENTS

Artificial turf is much harder on the

body with joint soreness and makes for tougher work.

Southern grass fields are the best.

Fields that are used for baseball and football leave hard infield that is difficult to play on. When you have one foot on grass and one in hard dirt, injuries are bound to happen.

If it's grass, enough of the high schools, colleges and concerts playing on it the day before.

If it's a cold weather grass field, these fields are battered to heck. The grounds crew can only do so much.

We need a league wide standard/regulation policy for every field if the NFL really cares about the safety of all players.

SUGGESTED CHANGES FOR IMPROVEMENT

Artificial surfaces should be required in cold weather cities.

We need better practice fields. Level and eliminate holes, divots and uneven ground.

Cold weather grass teams should have road trips late in the season to avoid playing on frozen surfaces. There should be no games played on grass fields the same weekend as another event.

Even [placement] of rubber material is needed, specifically comfortable give in twists and turns and level in height with no bumps.

Every stadium should be evaluated properly every week prior to game day.

If it's a multi-purpose stadium, mandate that it's artificial. If only one team [uses] then it can be grass. Force Chicago and Pittsburgh to go turf.

More time and money need to be spent on the fields. College surfaces are better.

Use softer bermuda grass with sand.

No more non updated artificial turf that is hard and over filled with ground up rubber and cheap top layer grass that you can pull off like a cheap toupee like Kansas City. ■

Best Grass Playing Field

- 1 ARIZONA CARDINALS: University of Phoenix Stadium
- 2 TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS: Raymond James Stadium
- 3 SAN DIEGO CHARGERS: Qualcomm Stadium
- 4 CAROLINA PANTHERS: Bank of America Stadium
- 5 GREEN BAY PACKERS: Lambeau Field
- 6 MIAMI DOLPHINS: Sun Life Stadium
- 7 HOUSTON TEXANS: Reliant Stadium
- 8 JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS: Everbank Field
- 9 DENVER BRONCOS: Invesco Field at Mile High
- 10 TENNESSEE TITANS: LP Field
- 11 WASHINGTON REDSKINS: FEDEX Field
- 12 SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS: Candlestick Park
- 13 KANSAS CITY CHIEFS: Arrowhead Stadium
- 14 PHILADELPHIA EAGLES: Lincoln Financial Field
- 15 PITTSBURGH STEELERS: Heinz Field
- 16 CLEVELAND BROWNS: Cleveland Browns Stadium
- 17 CHICAGO BEARS: Soldier Field
- 18 OAKLAND RAIDERS: Oakland Coliseum

Worst Grass Playing Field

- 1 PITTSBURGH STEELERS: Heinz Field
- 2 OAKLAND RAIDERS: Oakland Coliseum
- 3 CHICAGO BEARS: Soldier Field
- 4 MIAMI DOLPHINS: Sun Life Stadium
- 5 CLEVELAND BROWNS: Cleveland Browns Stadium
- 6 PHILADELPHIA EAGLES: Lincoln Financial Field
- 7 GREEN BAY PACKERS: Lambeau Field
- 8 KANSAS CITY CHIEFS: Arrowhead Stadium
- 9 TENNESSEE TITANS: LP Field
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- 14 TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS: Raymond James Stadium
- 15 SAN DIEGO CHARGERS: Qualcomm Stadium
- 16 WASHINGTON REDSKINS: FEDEX Field
- 17 DENVER BRONCOS: Invesco Field at Mile High
- 18 ARIZONA CARDINALS: University of Phoenix Stadium

Best Artificial Infilled Playing Field

- 1 INDIANAPOLIS COLTS: Lucas Oil Stadium
- 2 NEW YORK JETS/GIANTS: New Meadowlands Stadium
- 3 NEW ORLEANS SAINTS: Louisiana Superdome
- 4 SEATTLE SEAHAWKS: Qwest Field
- 5 DALLAS COWBOYS: Cowboys Stadium
- 6 ATLANTA FALCONS: Georgia Dome
- 7 NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS: Gillette Stadium
- 8 DETROIT LIONS: Ford Field
- 8 BALTIMORE RAVENS: M&T Bank Stadium
- 9 ST. LOUIS RAMS: Edward Jones Dome
- 10 CINCINNATI BENGALS: Paul Brown Stadium
- 11 MINNESOTA VIKINGS: Metrodome
- 12 BUFFALO BILLS: Ralph Wilson Stadium

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