

# SportsField

## MANAGEMENT

January 2026

Vol. 42 No.1

The Official Publication of the Sports Field Management Association

# SFMA 37<sup>TH</sup> Conference *and* Exhibition

**JANUARY 19-22, 2026**

**FORT WORTH  
CONVENTION CENTER**

*Fort Worth, Texas*



**OFFICIAL SHOW GUIDE**

**SPORTS FIELD**  
MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION





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Photo by Austin James



Photo by Mark Skalny

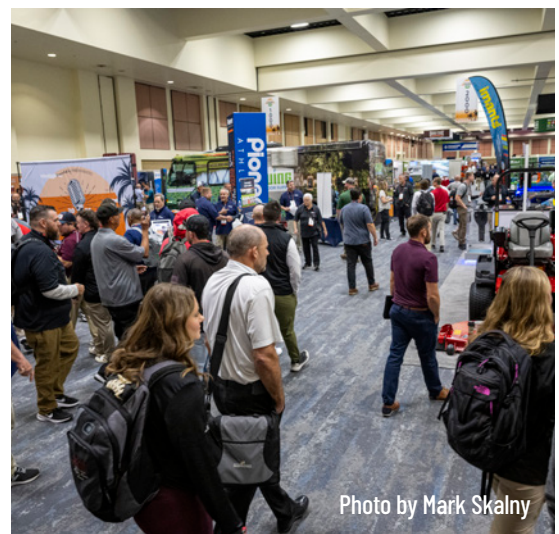


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# Editor's Note



**John Kmitta**

Associate Publisher /  
Editorial Brand Director  
jkmitta@epgacceleration.com  
763-383-4405

Happy New Year!

Welcome to our first-ever combined SFMA Conference Directory and January issue of *SportsField Management* magazine.

I'm excited to have been able to collaborate with the SFMA team to make this effort a reality. In the past, the January issue of the magazine and the SFMA Conference Directory were separate stand-alone products. Now, we are able to provide all the in-depth information conference attendees need, as well as additional editorial content for your enjoyment.

The annual conference is the highlight of the year. The industry's premier event is a time to reconnect with peers, meet new people, and, most of all, learn new things that will help boost your career.

The education lineup is stacked, with topics across multiple tracks. In addition, this year's General Session will offer an inside look at the preparations for FIFA World Cup 26.

The Annual Meeting will provide updates regarding the SFMA; additional receptions provide a bevy of networking opportunities; and the SAFE Bowling event and cornhole tournament offer fun opportunities to meet fellow attendees while raising money for the SAFE Foundation.

Personally, I'm looking forward to seeing the 2025 *SportsField Manage-*

*ment* magazine Rising Star Award winners, and also connecting with so many industry colleagues and friends.

If you have attended conference in the past, you know the range of activities at your fingertips, and you know how quickly the week goes. If this is your first time, be sure to soak it all in, and be open to introducing yourself to your fellow attendees.

Also, keep this directory handy. The Schedule at a Glance and Exhibit Hall Map/Exhibitor List in particular are vital resources for your time in Fort Worth.

See you in Texas!

I also want to take a moment to recognize and thank SFMA President Adam Thoms, Ph.D. I value Adam's guidance, professionalism, friendship, and the example that he has set.

This is Adam's last issue of the magazine as SFMA President. I know he will continue to serve SFMA in the year to come as Immediate Past-President; but before he passes the gavel at the Annual Meeting, please take time to thank him for his tireless efforts as a leader and advocate for the entire sports field management industry. **SFM**

## SportsField MANAGEMENT

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# President's Message



**Adam Thoms, Ph.D.**  
SFMA President  
athoms@iastate.edu

January is already here and I'm writing you all one final time as your president. I want to start by thanking all of you for the opportunity to serve as the President of SFMA for the past year.

We have seen several changes over the past year, with the most obvious being our new CEO, Paula Sliefert, taking over and immediately conducting a listening tour of our membership. We are also gathering in Fort Worth for our Annual Conference and Trade Show, which to many is like a family gathering. Instead of a keynote this year, we will have a presentation of some of the findings of the listening tour. As a part of that presentation, the SFMA Board will share how we are starting to act on those results and how we can make SFMA even better. If you miss the session right before the Annual Meeting, you can catch it as part of the podcast.

Education will be front and center with so many great sessions, and the Seminar on Wheels has great stops for both the half- and full-day tours. We also have a sold-out trade show, full of innovation and solutions; there is always so much to see and learn by walking the show floor. There will also be several SAFE events to help support scholarships.

Finally, we will celebrate our newest Certified Sports Field Managers, Field of the Year winners, and Founders Award winners. These events make the SFMA Annual Conference and Exhibition so special. We also owe the TXSFMA Chapter a huge thank you for taking on the Volunteer Field Rebuild in December.

In closing, I want to thank everyone who helped me over the past several years while I have been on the board. I will try to avoid naming anyone here, because that would use up all of my words and I would still miss someone. From the board of directors to committee chairs, you all stepped up to help move SFMA ahead, and invested time behind the scenes, which was greatly appreciated. I also appreciate the service of all the members who agreed to invest time in committees; you helped in so many ways.

Additionally, I need to thank Iowa State University for allowing me to spend the time I was able to on SFMA over the past year. Finally, I want to thank my family for putting up with the calls and text messages that came in during dinners and on weekends.

You all make this organization a pleasure to work with and I'm excited to see the future. **SFM**

– Adam Thoms, Ph.D.



**SPORTS FIELD**  
MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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[ SFMA BOOTH 737 ]

# 2026 World Cup Pitch Prep

**Tahoma 31 at Mexico's  
Stadium Monterrey**

Ahead of the 2026 World Cup this summer, Manager of Pitch and Natural Areas Carlos Castillo explains why he chose Tahoma 31 Bermudagrass as the surface for his new pitch. "It's the best," he says.

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## SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

For conference tracks and speakers, see PAGE 16. For full education session schedule with descriptions, see PAGE 17.

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

**6:30 - 9 p.m.**

**Registration Open**

Convention Center 13th Street Lobby Concourse

### MONDAY, JANUARY 19

**6:30 - 8 a.m.**

**Continental Breakfast**

Convention Center 13th Street Lobby Concourse

**6:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

**Registration Open**

Convention Center 13th Street Lobby Concourse

**7 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

**Full-day Seminar on Wheels**

Board buses at 6:45 a.m., depart from Convention Center

**10 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

**SAFE Cornhole Tournament**

Omni - Fort Worth Ballroom 1-4

**1:15 - 5 p.m.**

**PRE-CONFERENCE EDUCATION - Jump Start Your Conference: Power Learning Sessions**

Convention Center 202ABC

■ **Core Aeration by the Numbers, The ABC's of GDDs, Back to School: SFMA and Secondary Education**

■ **When the Weed Fights Back: Plant Factors Undermining Herbicide Success, When Nature Turns Against You: Environmental Conditions That Sabotage Herbicide Performance, When the Cure Bites Back: Herbicide Limits, Misuse, and Misfortunes That Backfire**

■ **Fertilizer Product Basics, Using Variety Trial Data to Select the Best Cultivars, Turf Disease Basics**

**6 - 9 p.m.**

**SAFE Bowling Tournament - BowLounge**

Board buses at 5:30 p.m., depart from Convention Center

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 20

**6:30 - 8 a.m.**

**Continental Breakfast**

Convention Center 13th Street Lobby Concourse

**7 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

**Registration Open**

Convention Center 13th Street Lobby Concourse

**8 - 9:30 a.m.**

**General Session - Inside the Pitch: Field Managers' Perspective on Preparing for FIFA World Cup 2026**

Convention Center Ballroom AB

**8 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

**FFA National Turfgrass Science Invitational (NTSI)**

Offsite at TCU

**9:45 - 10:45 a.m.**

**CONFERENCE EDUCATION:**

■ **Time to Take the PCI Off the Shelf**

Convention Center 203C

■ **Renovating Cool-Season Turfgrass Dominated by Annual Bluegrass**

Convention Center 201BC

■ **Simplified Soil Science for Superior Sports Surfaces**

Convention Center 202AB

■ **Optimizing Mowing Practices for Turfgrass Species: Autonomous vs Conventional**

Convention Center 202CD

■ **It's Not About the Paycheck**

Convention Center 203AB

■ **Ensuring Peak Performance Through Weed Control in Warm-Season Turf**

Convention Center 204AB

**11 a.m. - Noon**

**CONFERENCE EDUCATION:**

■ **Work/Life Balance for the Sports Field Manager**

Convention Center 203C

■ **Sports Field Irrigation A to Z-Including the Things You Were Afraid to Ask**

Convention Center 201BC

■ **Utilizing Autonomous Mowing Technology for Sports Field Management**  
Convention Center 202AB

■ **Trust the Journey: Navigating Career Transitions with Confidence and Finding Success**

Convention Center 202CD

■ **Managing Sports Fields More Effectively with PGRs**

Convention Center 203AB

■ **Leave it Better Than You Found it!**

Convention Center 204AB

**Noon - 2 p.m.**

**Break - Lunch on Own**

**Noon - 2 p.m.**

**Women's Forum Lunch**

Convention Center 110AB

**2 - 3:15 p.m.**

**CONFERENCE EDUCATION:**

■ **COTS - Chapter Leadership Training**

Convention Center 203C

■ **Measured Maintenance: Turfgrass Mathematics for Peak Performance**

Convention Center 201BC

■ **Suncorp Stadium-Australia's Premier Multipurpose Rectangular Stadium**

Convention Center 202AB

■ **Ballfields on a Budget: Practices and Products to Get the Most Bang for Your Buck**

Convention Center 202CD

■ **Indoor Turf Management: What We Have Learned Preparing for FWC26**

Convention Center 203AB

■ **Managing and Leading Young Workers and Dealing with Turnover**

Convention Center 204AB

**3:30 - 4:30 p.m.**

**CONFERENCE EDUCATION:**

■ **Clean Air, Healthy Fields: Leveraging Science to Support Natural Turf**

Convention Center 203C

■ **Fraise Mowing Strategies: Improving Recovery and Field Performance**

Convention Center 201BC

■ **Pesticide Formulations and Mixing**

Convention Center 202AB

■ **Improving Synthetic Turf Through Research: Key Findings from 15 Years of Research**  
Convention Center 202CD



## SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

### ■ The Sports Field Manager: Gratitude or Despair?

Convention Center 203AB

### ■ Generational Intelligence: Leadership for a Multigenerational Workforce

Convention Center 204AB

**5:30 - 6:45 p.m.**

### First Timers/Itnl/CSFM/Mentorship Reception

Convention Center Ballroom Foyer

**7 - 9 p.m.**

### Welcome Reception

Ashton Depot

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21

**6:30 - 8 a.m.**

### Continental Breakfast

Convention Center 13th Street Lobby Concourse

**7 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

### Registration Open

Convention Center 13th Street Lobby Concourse

**8 - 9 a.m.**

### CONFERENCE EDUCATION:

#### ■ Boots on the Ground with Turf Maintenance and Turf Renovations in a No Pesticide Part of the World

Convention Center 203C

#### ■ What is Soil Health and How can it Benefit my Athletic Fields?

Convention Center 201BC

#### ■ Overseeding Cool-Season Athletic Fields: Strategies to Transition to Better Grasses

Convention Center 202AB

#### ■ New Technology: Not Always the Easy Button

Convention Center 202CD

#### ■ Smart Spending: Cost-Effective Management and Negotiation Strategies for Turf Professionals

Convention Center 203AB

#### ■ Successful Community-Level Fields: Working with Volunteers, Teams and Low Budgets, Making it all Work!

Convention Center 204AB

**9:15 - 10:30 a.m.**

### CONFERENCE EDUCATION:

#### ■ Beyond the Ballfields: Maintaining Modern Recreation Spaces

Convention Center 203C

#### ■ Grass Innovation: Exploring the Newest Varieties for Field Performance

Convention Center 201BC

#### ■ Common Diseases of Cool-Season Sports Fields

Convention Center 202AB

#### ■ Math Made Simple, or So We Hope!

Convention Center 202CD

#### ■ Sharing 25 Years' Experience with Hybrid Carpets

Convention Center 203AB

#### ■ Texas A & M's Kyle Field: An "Eventful" Summer!

Convention Center 204AB

**10:45 - 11:45 a.m.**

### CEO/President Session

Convention Center Ballroom AB

**Noon - 1:15 p.m.**

### SFMA Annual Member Meeting and Lunch

Convention Center Ballroom AB

**1:30 - 4:30 p.m.**

### Professional Baseball Sports Field Managers Symposium

Convention Center 201BC

**1:30 - 6:30 p.m.**

### Trade Show Open

Convention Center Exhibit Hall ABC

**2 - 4:30 p.m.**

### Student Challenge

Convention Center Ballroom C

**6:30 - 7:15 p.m.**

### SAFE Live Auction — New Day!

Convention Center Exhibit Hall Foyer

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 22

**7 - 8:30 a.m.**

### Continental Breakfast

Convention Center 13th Street Lobby Concourse

**7 a.m. - Noon**

### Registration Open

Convention Center 13th Street Lobby Concourse

**8:30 - 10 a.m.**

### CONFERENCE EDUCATION:

#### ■ A Ride Through a Year in the Transition Zone with the Three Amigos

Convention Center 201BC

#### ■ Hybrid Grass Explained: Strength, Safety & Sustained Playability

Convention Center 202AB

#### ■ Panel Discussion: Strategies for Poa annua Management in Sports Fields

Convention Center 202CD

#### ■ Budget Like a Pro: Strategic Planning and Financial Advocacy for High-Impact Turf Investments

Convention Center 203AB

#### ■ Services No Longer Needed-The Aftermath and Landing Back on your Feet

Convention Center 204AB

**10 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

### Trade Show Open with Lunch

Convention Center Exhibit Hall ABC

**1 - 5 p.m.**

### Half-day Seminar on Wheels

*Board buses at 1 p.m., depart from Convention Center*

**1:30 - 3 p.m.**

### Chapter Officers Networking Event

Convention Center 204AB

**1:30 - 4:30 p.m.**

### Professional Baseball Sports Field Managers Symposium

Convention Center 201BC

**4:30 - 6 p.m.**

### Professional Headshots

Omni - Sundance 2

**6:30 - 7:30 p.m.**

### SFMA Pre-Awards Reception

Omni - Texas Ballroom Foyer

**7:30 - 10 p.m.**

### Awards Banquet

Omni - Texas Ballroom A-E



# THANK YOU

Our committee members and the 2025 SFMA Board of Directors put a lot of passion and energy into creating an unforgettable conference experience. We hope every session, event, and connection inspires you. As you make your way through the week, don't forget to thank the amazing volunteers who helped make it all happen.

## CONFERENCE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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Emerson Puliam, Associate Director Fields | Virginia Tech

*"For a recent sod on plastic trial we conducted at MSU's Hancock Turfgrass Research Center, I seeded MVS Iconic PRG blend and was very happy with its establishment. Just three days after seeding, nearly all the seed had popped!"*

Ryan Bearss, Research Assistant II

Michigan State University College of Agriculture & Natural Resources



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## JOIN US AT OUR RECEPTIONS!

### INTERNATIONAL/CSFM/MENTORSHIP/ FIRST-TIME ATTENDEES RECEPTION

(Ribbon required)

**Tuesday, January 20**

**5:30 - 6:45 p.m.**

📍 Convention Center Ballroom Foyer

This reception, sponsored by AgStone, LLC, provides a relaxed setting for our International and First-time attendees to meet and network with the SFMA Board of Directors. The reception also honors mentors and mentees, as well as Certified Sports Field Managers, who have attained the highest professional designation available in the profession.



All photos by Mark Skalny

### WELCOME RECEPTION

**Tuesday, January 20**

**7 - 9 p.m.**

📍 The Ashton Depot

Join us for this year's Welcome Reception at The Ashton Depot, a beautifully restored historic venue just a convenient 7-minute walk from the convention center in downtown Fort Worth. We have a few unforgettable surprises planned for the evening — think one-of-a-kind photo ops and lively entertainment — all generously sponsored by The Toro Company and Covermaster. Enjoy food, drinks and plenty of time to mingle with fellow attendees as we kick off the conference in true Texas style. Come dressed in your Western best and get ready for a night you won't want to miss!



## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

### SFMA REGISTRATION HOURS

📍 Fort Worth Convention Center 13th Street Lobby Concourse

|                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Sunday, January 18    | 6:30 - 9 p.m.      |
| Monday, January 19    | 6:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. |
| Tuesday, January 20   | 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.    |
| Wednesday, January 21 | 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.    |
| Thursday, January 22  | 7 a.m. - Noon      |

#### Available in the Registration & Networking Area:

- SFMA program information
- Meet and network with fellow attendees
- Purchase raffle tickets to support the SAFE Foundation
- Job board
- Information booths



### SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us @FieldExperts on Instagram, Facebook, TikTok, and X (formerly Twitter).

Use #SFMA2026 in all your tweets or posts about the conference.

## MEET THE NEW PLAYER



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## CONFERENCE TRACKS AND SPEAKERS



### TRACKS

**TM** - Turfgrass Management  
**RT** - Research and Technology  
**SYN** - Synthetic  
**SUST/BMP** - Sustainability/Best Management Practices

**PD/CD** - Professional Development/  
 Career Development  
**PC** - Pest Control

### SPEAKER LIST



Weston Appelfeller  
 James Bergdoll, CSFM  
 Cale Bigelow, Ph.D.  
 Scott Bills, CSFM  
 Ryan Bjorn  
 Colin Boak  
 Ben Boeding, CSFM  
 Neil Cathey, CSFM  
 Nick Christians, Ph.D.  
 Cindy Code  
 Kyle Dickson, Ph.D.  
 Alan Ferguson  
 Barry Gardner  
 Lisa Goatley, LPC  
 Mike Goatley, Ph.D.  
 David Graham  
 Eric Harshman, CSFM  
 Aaron Hathaway  
 Robert Heggie  
 Jason Henderson, Ph.D.  
 Gerald Henry, Ph.D.  
 Ewen Hodge  
 Travis Hogan  
 Bryan Hopkins, Ph.D.  
 Tessa Hospod  
 Tony Ivey  
 Brad Jakubowski, MS, CIT  
 Holly Kasperbauer  
 Quincy Law, Ph.D.  
 Mark Major

Ray McCauley, Ph.D.  
 Scott McElroy, Ph.D.  
 Nick McKenna, CSFM  
 Jeff McManus  
 Jamie Mehringer  
 Drew Miller, Ed.D.  
 Paul Miskimen  
 Tyler Morris  
 Gregg Munshaw, Ph.D.  
 Matthew Oliver  
 Brad Park, MS  
 Pawel Petelewicz, Ph.D.  
 David Pinsonneault, CSFM  
 Jada Powlen, Ph.D.  
 Geoff Rinehart, MS  
 John (Trey) Rogers, Ph.D.  
 Dan Sandor, Ph.D.  
 Dale Sanson, Ph.D.  
 Chrissie Segars, Ph.D.  
 Pam Sherratt  
 Paula Sliefert  
 John Sorochnan, Ph.D.  
 Joey Stevenson  
 JP Tambourine  
 Peter Thibeault, CSFM  
 Ava Veith  
 Trevor Warner  
 Taylor Williams  
 Keith Winter  
 John Wright



## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

**6:30 – 9 p.m.**

**Attendee Registration**

Convention Center: 13th Street  
Lobby Concourse

### MONDAY, JANUARY 19

**6:30 – 8 a.m.**

**Continental Breakfast**

13th Street Lobby Concourse

**6:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

**Attendee Registration**

13th Street Lobby Concourse

**7 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

**Seminar on Wheels (Full Day)**

Board buses at 6:45 am, depart  
from Convention Center

**10 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

**SAFE Cornhole Tournament**

Omni - Fort Worth Ballroom 1-4

**1:15 – 4:50 p.m.**

**Jump Start Your Conference:  
Preconference Education  
Power Learning Sessions**  
All sessions in Room 202ABC

**1:15 – 1:30 p.m.**

**Rapid Preview of Speaker  
Topics plus Extras**

**1:30 – 2:15 p.m.**

- **Core Aeration by the Numbers**
- **The ABC's of GDDs**

- **Back to School: SFMA and  
Secondary Education**

*Speaker: Dan Sandor, Ph.D.*

**2:15 – 2:30 p.m.**

**Rapid Review of Speaker Topics  
plus Extras**

**2:30 – 3:15 p.m.**

- **When the Weed Fights Back:  
Plant Factors Undermining  
Herbicide Success**
- **When Nature Turns Against You:  
Environmental Conditions That  
Sabotage Herbicide Performance**
- **When the Cure Bites Back:  
Herbicide Limits, Misuse, and  
Misfortunes That Backfire**

*Speaker: Pawel Petelewicz, Ph.D.*

**3:15 – 3:30 p.m.**

**Rapid Review of Speaker Topics  
plus Extras**

**3:30 – 3:50 p.m.**

**Break/Poster Project Showcase**

**3:50 – 4:35 p.m.**

- **Fertilizer Product Basics**
- **Using Variety Trial Data to  
Select the Best Cultivars**
- **Turf Disease Basics**

*Speaker: Geoff Rinehart, MS*

**4:35 – 4:50 p.m.**

**Rapid Review of Speaker Topics  
and Finale**

**6 – 9 p.m.**

**SAFE Bowling - BowLounge**

Board buses at 5:30 p.m., depart  
from Convention Center

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 20

**6:30 – 8 a.m.**

**Continental Breakfast**

13th Street Lobby Concourse

**7 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

**Attendee Registration**

13th Street Lobby Concourse

**8 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

**FFA NTSI**

TCU (offsite)

**8 – 9:30 a.m.**

**General Session: Inside the Pitch:  
Field Managers' Perspective on  
Preparing for FIFA World Cup 2026**

Ballroom AB

*Speakers: John Wright; Tyler Morris,  
CSFM; Ryan Bjorn; Robert Heggie;  
Alan Ferguson; Weston Appelfeller,  
CSFM; Shaun Ilten; David Graham;  
Ewen Hodge; Trey Rogers, Ph.D.;  
Moderator: John Sorochan, Ph.D.*



## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### EDUCATION SESSIONS

**9:45 – 10:45 a.m.**

#### **Time to Take the PCI Off the Shelf**

Room: 203C

*Speaker: David Pinsonneault, CSFM, CPRP, CPWP-M; Track: TM*

This presentation will discuss the Playing Conditions Index tool used in athletic field assessment.

#### **Renovating Cool-season Turfgrass Dominated by Annual Bluegrass**

Room: 201BC

*Speaker: Brad Park; Track: PC*

This presentation will explore Rutgers research results and a case study involving

integration of perennial ryegrass overseeding and herbicide applications.

#### **Simplified Soil Science for Superior Sports Surfaces**

Room: 202AB

*Speaker: Bryan Hopkins, Ph.D.;*

*Track: TM*

The focus in this session will be to teach advanced soil science concepts in a practical, applied manner.

#### **Optimizing Mowing Practices for Turfgrass Species: Autonomous vs. Conventional**

Room: 202CD

*Speakers: Tessa Hospod, Jason*

*Henderson, Ph.D.; Track: RT*

This presentation will describe if mowing regime and height of cut have different effects on turfgrass quality, mowing quality, and stress tolerance on four different cool season turfgrass species.

#### **It's Not About the Paycheck**

Room: 203AB

*Speaker: Jeff McManus; Track: PD/CD*

Through real-world stories and leadership lessons, McManus shows how high-performing teams thrive.

#### **Ensuring Peak Performance Through Weed Control in Warm-Season Turf**

Room: 204AB

*Speakers: Gerald Henry, Ph.D.; Pawel Petelewicz, Ph.D.; Track: PC*

This presentation will discuss the impacts of weed infestation on athletic field performance.

**11 a.m. – Noon**

#### **Work/Life Balance for the Sports Field Manager**

Room: 203C

*Speakers: Lisa Goatley, LPC; Mike Goatley, Ph.D.; Track: PD/CD*

This presentation will discuss work/life balance and present strategies to maintain healthy family relationships while meeting the demands of work.

#### **Sports Field Irrigation A to Z - Including the Things You Were Afraid to Ask**

Room: 201BC

*Speaker: Brad Jakubowski, MS, CIT;*

*Track: TM*

This workshop will take you through all of the major concepts of irrigation: Why we water. Why it's important for the field, society, and beyond.

#### **Utilizing Autonomous Mowing Technology for Sports Field Management**

Room: 202AB

*Speaker: Scott McElroy, Ph.D.;*

*Track: RT*

In this presentation, Dr. McElroy will cover the major types of autonomous mowers, discuss how they are utilized, and how they will change the way the turfgrass is managed.

#### **Trust the Journey: Navigating Career Transitions with Confidence and Finding Success**

Room: 202CD

*Speakers: Paula Sliefert, Ava Veith*

*Track: PD/CD*

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[BulldogTurfToys.com](http://BulldogTurfToys.com)

## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Ava and Paula will share their personal experiences with career transitions, offering insights into how they navigated change while staying open to new opportunities.

### Managing Sports Fields More Effectively with PGRs

Room: 203AB

*Speaker: Aaron Hathaway; Track: TM*  
This presentation will take an in-depth look at plant growth regulators (PGRs).

### Leave it Better Than You Found it!

Room: 204AB

*Speakers: Andrew Miller, Ed.D.; Travis Hogan; Track: PD/CD*

The presenters will discuss the key compo-

nents of how they have grown in their careers with different components, from leadership to technological advancements.

### Noon – 2 p.m.

#### Break/Women's Forum

### 2 – 3:15 p.m.

#### COTS

Room: 203C

### Measured Maintenance: Turfgrass Mathematics for Peak Performance

Room: 201BC

*Speakers: Quincy Law, Ph.D.; Nick Christians, Ph.D.; Track: TM*  
This presentation will work through common turfgrass calculations using both the proportional method and dimensional analysis.

### Suncorp Stadium - Australia's Premier Multipurpose Rectangular Stadium

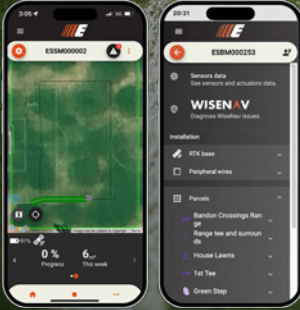
Room: 202AB

*Speaker: Matthew Oliver*  
Go behind the scenes of Suncorp Stadium — Australia's premier rectangular stadium and one of the busiest natural turf venues in the world.

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## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### **Ballfields on a Budget: Practices and Products to Get the Most Bang for Your Buck**

Room: 202CD

*Speaker: Gregg Munshaw, Ph.D.;*

*Track: SUST/BMP*

This presentation will focus on the practices that are critical for healthy turfgrass and other practices that may be reduced based on labor and budget.

### **Indoor Turf Management: What We Have Learned Preparing for FWC26**

Room: 203AB

*Speaker: John Soroohan, Ph.D.;*

*Track: RT*

Discussion will focus on the research being done at the University of Tennessee to grow grass in five domed stadiums for the 2026 World Cup.

### **Managing and Leading Young Workers and Dealing with Turnover**

Room: 204AB

*Speaker: Colin Boak; Track: PD/CD*

Tools and tricks used to relate and get the most out of your younger age crew.

**3:30 – 4:30 p.m.**

### **Clean Air, Healthy Fields: Leveraging Science to Support Natural Turf**

Room: 203C

*Speakers: Cindy Code; Scott Bills, CSFM;*

*Track: RT*

An overview of the Clean Air Calculator (CAC) — a science-based tool developed by Project EverGreen.

### **Fraise Mowing Strategies: Improving Recovery and Field Performance**

Room: 201BC

*Speakers: Jada Powlen, Ph.D.;*

*Ray McCauley, Ph.D.; Track: TM*

Fraise mowing and its uses, effects on field performance, and strategies for improving bermudagrass recovery.

### **Pesticide Formulations and Mixing**

Room: 202AB

*Speakers: Chrissie Segars, Ph.D.;*

*Dale Sanson, Ph.D.; Track: PC*

There are over 30 different pesticide formulation types worldwide. The top five formulation types used in the turf industry will be reviewed.

### **Improving Synthetic Turf Through Research: Key Findings from 15 Years of Research**

Room: 202CD

*Speakers: Kiley Dickson, Ph.D.;*

*Taylor Williams; Track: SYN*

The University of Tennessee has evaluated various types of synthetic turf, infill, and shock pads to determine uniformity and player performance.

### **The Sports Field Manager: Gratitude or Despair?**

Room: 203AB

*Speaker: Keith Winter; Track: PD/CD*

This presentation will include a look at the Seven Realms of Human Emotion and how they impact our personal and professional life.

### **Generational Intelligence: Leadership for a Multigenerational Workforce**

Room: 204AB

*Speakers: Holly Kasperbauer; Nick*

*McKenna, CSFM; Track: PD/CD*

Essential insights to help you unlock the full potential of your workforce.

**5:30 – 6:30 p.m.**

### **First Time/Mentorship/CSFM/ International Attendee Reception** Convention Center Ballroom Foyer

**7 – 9 p.m.**

### **Welcome Reception** Ashton Depot



## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21

6:30 – 8 a.m.

#### Continental Breakfast

Convention Center 13th Street Lobby  
Concourse

7 a.m. – 5 p.m.

#### Attendee Registration

Convention Center 13th Street Lobby  
Concourse

### EDUCATION SESSIONS

8 – 9 a.m.

#### Boots on the Ground with Turf

#### Maintenance and Turf Renovations in a No Pesticide Part of the World

Room: 203C

Speaker: Trevor Warner;

Track: SUST/BMP

An overview of turf maintenance and turf renovations through videos and pictures of what the presenters do to combat weeds and promote turf grass growth in a part of the world that has a pesticide ban.

#### What is Soil Health and How can it Benefit my Athletic Fields?

Room: 201BC

Speaker: Gregg Munshaw, Ph.D.;

Track: TM

Will discuss what soil health is and what it is not, how soil health can benefit turfgrasses, and how our turfgrass management practices can affect it.

#### Overseeding Cool-season Athletic Fields: Strategies to Transition to Better Grasses

Room: 202AB

Speakers: Jada Powlen, Ph.D.; Cale Bigelow, Ph.D.; Track: TM

This session will cover the various cultural strategies that one could utilize to successfully add newer grasses and genetics in tired old sports fields.



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## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### **New Technology: Not Always the Easy Button**

Room: 202CD

*Speakers: Ben Boeding, CSFM; Paul Miskimen; Track: RT*

This session will share real-world insights on early adoption of new technology, common hurdles, and lessons learned.

### **Smart Spending: Cost-Effective Management and Negotiation Strategies for Turf Professionals**

Room: 203AB

*Speakers: Barry Gardner, Jamie Mehringer, Joey Stevenson; Track: PD/CD*

This session is designed to equip sports turf managers with practical strategies for stretching budgets without sacrificing quality.

### **Successful Community-Level Fields: Working with Volunteers, Teams and Low Budgets, Making it all Work!**

Room: 204AB

*Speakers: Brad Jakubowski, MS, CIT; JP Tambourine; Track: Sust/BMP*

This seminar will discuss the requirements and ingredients needed for succeeding with volunteers and low-budgets.

**9:15 – 10:30 a.m.**

### **Beyond the Ballfields: Maintaining Modern Recreation Spaces**

Room: 203C

*Speaker: Tony Ivey; Track: TM*

This presentation is designed for facility managers responsible for maintaining non-traditional recreational amenities.

### **Grass Innovation: Exploring the Newest Varieties for Field Performance**

Room: 201BC

*Speakers: Kyley Dickson, Ph.D.; Gregg Munshaw, Ph.D.; Track: RT*

This session will provide an overview of the latest advances in turfgrass breeding and development.

### **Common Diseases of Cool-Season Sports Fields**

Room: 202AB

*Speaker: Geoff Rinehart, MS; Track: PC*

This presentation will cover the most common diseases of sports fields in the transition zone and northern (cool-season) zone.

### **Math Made Simple, or so we Hope!**

Room: 202CD

*Speakers: Mike Goatley, Ph.D.; Dan Sandor, Ph.D.; Track: TM*

The primary objective of this seminar is to make problem solving easy for everyone.

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## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### Sharing 25 Years' Experience with Hybrid Carpets

Room: 203AB

*Speaker: Mark Major; Track: Syn*

Practical, no-nonsense discussion from someone who has been hands-on in every aspect of the hybrid carpet business for nearly three decades.

### Texas A & M's Kyle Field: An "Eventful" Summer!

Room: 204AB

*Speaker: Nick McKenna, CSFM;*

*Track: TM*

This presentation will outline the events and

activities that occurred at Texas A&M's Kyle Field during the summer of 2024.

**10:45 – 11:45 a.m.**

**CEO/President Session**

Ballroom AB

**Noon – 1:15 p.m.**

**Annual Meeting/Lunch**

Convention Center Ballroom AB

**1:30 – 4:30 p.m.**

**Baseball SIG**

Room: 201BC

**1:30 – 4:30 p.m.**

**Tradeshow (Exhibit Hall Open)**

**2:45 p.m.**

**NTSI Winner Announcement**

**2 – 4:30 p.m.**

**Student Challenge**

Ballroom C

**6:30 – 7:15 p.m.**

**SAFE Live Auction**

Convention Center Exhibit  
Hall Foyer



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## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 22

**7 – 8:30 a.m.**

#### Continental Breakfast

Convention Center 13th Street Lobby  
Concourse

**8 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

#### Attendee Registration

Convention Center 13th Street Lobby  
Concourse

### EDUCATION SESSIONS

**8:30 – 10 a.m.**

#### A Ride Through a Year in the Transition Zone with the Three Amigos

Room: 201BC

*Speakers: Cale Bigelow, Ph.D.;*

*Mike Goatley, Ph.D.;*

*Gregg Munshaw, Ph.D.;*

Track: TM

This "discussion session" (audience participation strongly encouraged) will review the 2025 growing season across the transition zone from Missouri to Virginia.

#### Hybrid Grass Explained: Strength, Safety & Sustained Playability

Room: 202AB

*Speakers: Ryan Bearss, Toby Clarke,*

*Alan Thompson, David Graham, Ian*

*Craig; Track: Syn*

The discussion will focus on why shallow stitching is used, how these systems perform, and what we have learned from cultivating and managing them in practice.

#### Panel Discussion: Strategies for Poa annua Management in Sports Fields

Room: 202CD

*Speakers: Gerald Henry, Ph.D.;*

*Scott McElroy, Ph.D.;*

*Chrissie Segars, Ph.D.; Pam Sherratt;*

Track: PC

A panel of turfgrass experts will discuss Poa annua control options from within their respective locations throughout the country.

#### Budget Like a Pro: Strategic Planning and Financial Advocacy for High-Impact Turf Investments

Room: 203AB

*Speakers: Barry Gardner,*

*Jamie Mehringer, Joey Stevenson;*

Track: PD/CD

Proven strategies for budget planning and securing financial support for large-scale purchases.

#### Services No Longer Needed-The Aftermath and Landing Back on Your Feet

Room: 204AB

*Speakers: Eric Harshman, CSFM,*

*CGM; James Bergdoll, CSFM; Peter*

*Thibeault, CSFM; Neil Cathey, CSFM;*

Track: PD/CD

This panel discussion brings together seasoned Certified Sports Field Managers (CSFMs) who have faced unexpected career transitions.

**10 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

#### Tradeshow (Exhibit Hall Open)

**1 – 5 p.m.**

#### Seminar On Wheels (Half-day)

Board buses at 1 pm, depart from  
Convention Center

**1:30 – 3 p.m.**

#### Chapter Officers Networking Event

Room: 204AB

**1:30 – 4:30 p.m.**

#### Baseball SIG

Room: 201BC

**4:30 – 6 p.m.**

#### Headshots

Omni – Sundance 2

**6:30 – 7:30 p.m.**

#### Pre-Awards Reception

Omni – Texas Ballroom Foyer

**7:30 – 10 p.m.**

#### Awards Banquet

Omni – Texas Ballroom A-E

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

**2 – 3 p.m. Importance of the Right Foundation: Principles of Athletic Field Rootzone Design and Maintenance**

*Speaker: Joshua Marden, CSFM, Track: TM*

**3:15 – 4:15 p.m. Water Quality and Lack Thereof**

*Speaker: Marco Schiavon, Ph.D., Track: TM*

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

**2 – 3 p.m. What is Nanotechnology and How Can it Help My Sports Fields?**

*Speaker: Geoff Rinehart, MS, Track: RT*

**3:15 – 4:15 p.m. Soil Health of Sports Fields: Are Pesticides and Fertilizers Killing our Soils?**

*Speaker: Bryan Hopkins, Ph.D., Track: PC*

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

**2 – 3 p.m. Cool-Season Turfgrasses for Reduced-Input Grounds and Sports Fields**

*Speaker: Brad Park, Track: Sust/BMP*

**3:15 – 4:15 p.m. Relationship Goals: How to Improve the Success of Your Sports Field by Communication**

*Speaker: Keith Fisher, Track: PD/CD*

## TUESDAY, MARCH 3

**2 – 3 p.m. Budgeting Fundamentals: Knowing What Goes Where and How**

*Speaker: Brad Jakubowski, MS, CIT, Track: Sust/BMP*

**3:15 – 4:15 p.m. How to Plan Athletic Field Management for an Effective Integrated Pest Management Plan**

*Speaker: Amanda Folck, MS, Track: PC*

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## GENERAL SESSION

**Tuesday, January 20**

**8 - 9:30 a.m.**

📍 Convention Center Ballroom AB

### **Inside the Pitch: Field Managers' Perspective on Preparing for FIFA World Cup 2026**

*Panelists: Weston Appelfeller, CSFM; Ryan Bjorn; Alan Ferguson; David Graham; Robert Heggie; Ewen Hodge; Tyler Morris, CSFM; John "Trey" Rogers, Ph.D.; John Wright, Jr.  
Moderator: John Sorochoan, Ph.D.*

This panel discussion will provide an inside look at the preparation and operational demands faced by facilities participating in the upcoming FIFA World Cup. Panelists will begin by sharing when planning conversations first began at their venues and their initial reactions upon learning they would host FIFA activities. The discussion will explore key timelines, major preparation milestones, and the varying levels of work required among facilities. Topics will include training facility and base-camp design, operational adjustments such as equipment updates, and behind-the-scenes challenges encountered along the way. Panelists will offer insight into collaboration with FIFA officials, city partners, and organizing committees, as well as provide visual progress updates from their sites. The session will highlight practical lessons and best practices applicable to all sports field managers, followed by a look at post-FIFA recovery plans and how each facility will transition back to regular operations.



## WOMEN'S FORUM

**Tuesday, January 20**

**Noon - 2 p.m.**

📍 Convention Center 110AB

The Women's Forum Luncheon, proudly supported by founding sponsor Hunter Industries, will feature a highly interactive format designed to spark conversation and connection. Through guided table discussions, shared stories, and built-in time for group exercises, attendees will have plenty of opportunities to network, exchange ideas, and build meaningful relationships with peers across the industry.

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## SFMA ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCH

**Wednesday, January 21**

**Noon - 1:15 p.m.**

📍 Convention Center Ballroom AB

Join us for the SFMA Annual Membership Meeting at this year's conference. This is a fantastic opportunity to connect with fellow members, hear highlights from SFMA and the SAFE Foundation, and learn important updates about the organization's future direction.

## AWARDS BANQUET AND PRE-BANQUET RECEPTION

### PRE-BANQUET RECEPTION

**Thursday, January 22**

**6:30 - 7:30 p.m.**

📍 Texas Ballroom Foyer

Sponsored by STEC



### AWARDS BANQUET

**Thursday, January 22**

**7:30 - 10:00 p.m.**

📍 Texas Ballroom

Sponsored by Carolina Green Corp. and  
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Enjoy a reception and then an elegant dinner immediately followed by the awards program, which honors notable contributions in the industry.

*RSVP and ticket required.*

*Coat and tie and comparable attire for women is preferred.*

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## STUDENT ACTIVITIES

### STUDENT CHALLENGE

Wednesday, January 21

2 - 4:30 p.m.,

📍 Ballroom C

The Student Challenge is presented in partnership with the SAFE Foundation, founding partner Hunter Industries, and supporting sponsor SiteOne. Each year, students from 2-year and 4-year colleges and universities throughout the country compete in an exam that challenges knowledge in the sports field industry. The winning teams receive a cash award, a plaque, and medallions for each team member. The prize money benefits the institution's turfgrass program and creates opportunities for students pursuing careers in sports field management.



### NATIONAL TURFGRASS SCIENCE INVITATIONAL

Tuesday, January 20

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

📍 Texas Christian University

The National Turfgrass Science Invitational will alternate between the national conferences of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) and Sports Field Management Association (SFMA). Recognition of winners and teams who competed at the invitational will be held Wednesday, January 21 at 2:45 pm. In its effort to modernize and increase the number of quality experiences for FFA members, National FFA has created a new model to recognize endorsed activities with other organizations. The National Turfgrass Science Invitational is endorsed by National FFA, and is open to FFA members.

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## SAFE SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANT WINNERS

### SAFE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

#### GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

**Dr. James Watson Graduate Scholarship,**  
presented by The Toro Company:  
Ava Veith, Penn State University

**SAFE Graduate Scholarship:**  
Faishal Khan, Washington State University

#### FOUR-YEAR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

**Dr. James Watson Undergraduate Scholarship,**  
presented by The Toro Company:  
Evan Dupuis, Purdue University

**SAFE Undergraduate Scholarship:**  
Benjamin Kuiters, Iowa State University

**SAFE Undergraduate Scholarship:**  
Dante Filadoro, University of  
Massachusetts Amherst

#### TWO-YEAR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

**Dr. Fred Grau Memorial Scholarship:**  
Kaleb Meredith, Penn State World Campus

**Dr. James Watson Undergraduate Scholarship,**  
presented by The Toro Company:  
Aubree Faulkner, Michigan State University

**Paul Zwaska Scholarship Winner,**  
presented by Beacon Athletics:  
Victor Abarca, University of Florida

# SAFE

The Foundation for Safer Athletic Fields

**Darian Daily Memorial  
Scholarship Winner:**  
Paige Wildt, Southeast Missouri  
State University

### SAFE GRANT WINNERS

**Gary Vanden Berg Internship Grant:**  
Benjamin Kuiters, Iowa State University

**Leo Goertz Membership Grants,**  
presented by Pioneer Athletics:  
Alan Holland, MBA, Town of Walkerton  
Rex Zemke, Wausau Schools

## SAFE FOUNDATION EVENTS

### SAFE CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

**Monday, January 19**

**10 a.m. - 1 p.m.**



📍 Omni Hotel - Fort Worth Ballroom 1-4

Cornhole is back! Grab a partner and join us for the SAFE Foundation Cornhole Tournament - fun and friendly competition that supports scholarships, grants and research in the sports field management industry. Enjoy networking, prizes, and camaraderie while helping advance the mission of the SAFE Foundation.

### SAFE BOWLING TOURNAMENT

**Monday, January 19**

**6 - 9 p.m.**

📍 BowLounge - Downtown Fort Worth  
(Busing provided)

Bring your team or join one for the SAFE Foundation Bowling Tournament - fun and friendly competition that supports scholarships, grants, and research in the sports field management industry. Enjoy networking, prizes, and camaraderie while helping advance the mission of the SAFE Foundation.  
*Advance sign up prior to conference is required.*

### SAFE LIVE AUCTION

**Wednesday, January 21**

**6:30 p.m.**

📍 FW Convention Center, Exhibit Hall Entrance Foyer

The SAFE Live Auction has a new day and time! Join us immediately after the SFMA Trade Show closes on Wednesday. The auction and bidding start promptly at 6:30 p.m. - please arrive on time. All proceeds benefit the Foundation for Safer Athletic Fields for Everyone (SAFE), providing student scholarships, grants, internships, and Student Challenge awards that help launch careers and improve field safety nationwide. When you bid, you're not just winning great items - you're investing in the next generation of sports field managers.

### SAFE BIG TICKET RAFFLE DRAWING

**Thursday, January 22**

**7:30 p.m. until Awards Banquet**

📍 Omni Hotel - Texas Ballroom A-E

You can buy raffle tickets at conference events throughout the week or anytime at Attendee Registration for a chance to win exciting prizes! The drawing will take place at the start of the Awards Banquet on Thursday. (You do not need to be present to win.)





Photo courtesy FC Dallas

Learn from field managers, see top facilities in action, and connect with peers.  
(Pre-registration and additional fee required).

### FULL-DAY SEMINAR ON WHEELS

**Monday January 19**

*Sponsored by Bush Sports Turf*

- 7 a.m.** Depart Fort Worth Omni for Toyota Stadium (FC Dallas)
- 8 a.m.** Arrive and tour facility
- 9:45 a.m.** Depart for Riders Field (Frisco RoughRiders)
- 10 a.m.** Arrive and tour Riders Field
- 11:15 a.m.** Depart
- Noon** Box lunch at Southern Methodist University (SMU)
- 1 p.m.** Tour SMU facilities
- 2:45 p.m.** Depart for conference hotel
- 3:45 p.m.** Arrive at Fort Worth Omni

**BUSH**  
**SPORTS TURF**

### HALF-DAY SEMINAR ON WHEELS

**Thursday, January 22**

- 1 p.m.** Depart Fort Worth Omni and Travel to AT&T Stadium (Dallas Cowboys)
- 1:45 p.m.** Tour AT&T Stadium
- 3 p.m.** Travel to Globe Life Field (Texas Rangers)
- 3:15 p.m.** Tour Globe Life Field
- 4:15 p.m.** Travel back to Fort Worth Omni
- 5 p.m.** Arrive at Fort Worth Omni

## SFMA FIELD OF THE YEAR WINNERS – 2025

### PROFESSIONAL

- **Baseball** – Equity Bank Park, Wichita Wind Surge, Ben Hartman
- **Soccer** – CPKC Stadium, Kansas City Current, Mira Emma

### COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY

- **Baseball** – Alex Box Stadium at Skip Bertman Field, Louisiana State University, Jordan Billingsley
- **Football** – Kelchner Field, Christopher Newport University, Christopher Webb, CSFM
- **Soccer** – LSU Soccer Field, Louisiana State University, Jeremy Henderson
- **Softball** – Joan Joyce Field, Florida Atlantic University, Max Wadsworth

### SCHOOLS AND PARKS

- **Baseball** – Muzzy Field, City of Bristol, CT Parks & Rec., Doug Trillo, CSFM, CPSI, CTTW
- **Football** – High School Football Field, Windham School District, Robin Wilson
- **Soccer** – Walsh Field, Pace Academy's Riverview Sports Complex, Daniel Prince
- **Softball** – Warrior Softball Field, Little Rock Christian Academy, Ryan Smith
- **Sporting Grounds** – Ed Karpus Field, Thomas Dale High School, Bryan Sheetz



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## CHAPTER OFFICER TRAINING SESSION

### COTS

Tuesday, January 20

2 - 3:15 p.m.

📍 Room 203C

The Chapter Officer Training Session (COTS) session will feature a panel of experts who will share insights on chapter growth, including communication strategies, new chapter development, website planning, and additional best practices to support chapter success.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS

### CEU INFORMATION

Increase your professionalism by taking advantage of the continuing education units (CEUs) offered at the SFMA Conference each year. Earn up to 1.5 CEUs through SFMA. In addition to SFMA, the following professional organizations may be providing CEUs for attending education sessions at the conference:

- American Sports Builders Association (ASBA)
- National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)
- Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA)
- Irrigation Association (IA)
- Professional Grounds Management Society (PGMS)
- National Association of Landscape Professionals (NALP)

#### Pesticide Recertification Credits: Texas

*Note: Pesticide Recertification credits are only available for the states listed above. If you are attending from another state and need pesticide recertification credits, you are responsible for contacting your state's Department of Agriculture for approval.*





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## BANNED ACTIVITIES

### SUITCASING/OUTBOARDING

Suitcasing refers to the solicitation of business by attendees in trade show aisles or other public spaces, such as hospitality suites or restaurants. Often termed outboarding events, these practices can negatively impact the exhibition. These are unethical business practices and will not be tolerated.

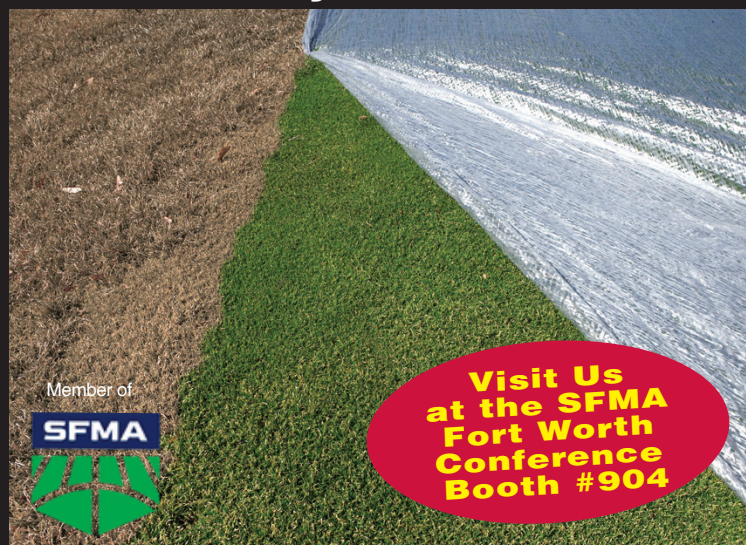
To distribute information or conduct business, you must have a designated trade show booth. The SFMA reserves the right to remove anyone who violates this policy. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

### ANTITRUST POLICY

The SFMA is committed to fostering competition and fully complies with antitrust laws in both spirit and practice. Discussions regarding pricing, sales terms, wages, or any other competitive information are strictly prohibited at SFMA meetings. Thank you for helping us maintain a fair and compliant environment.



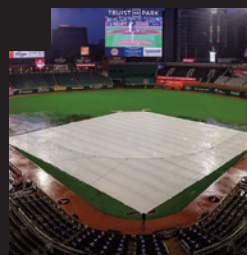
## Covers trusted by those who know...



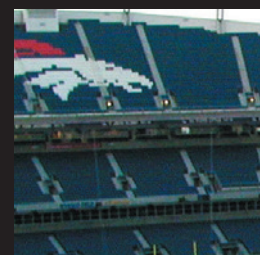
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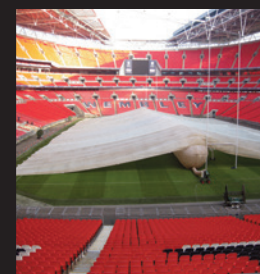
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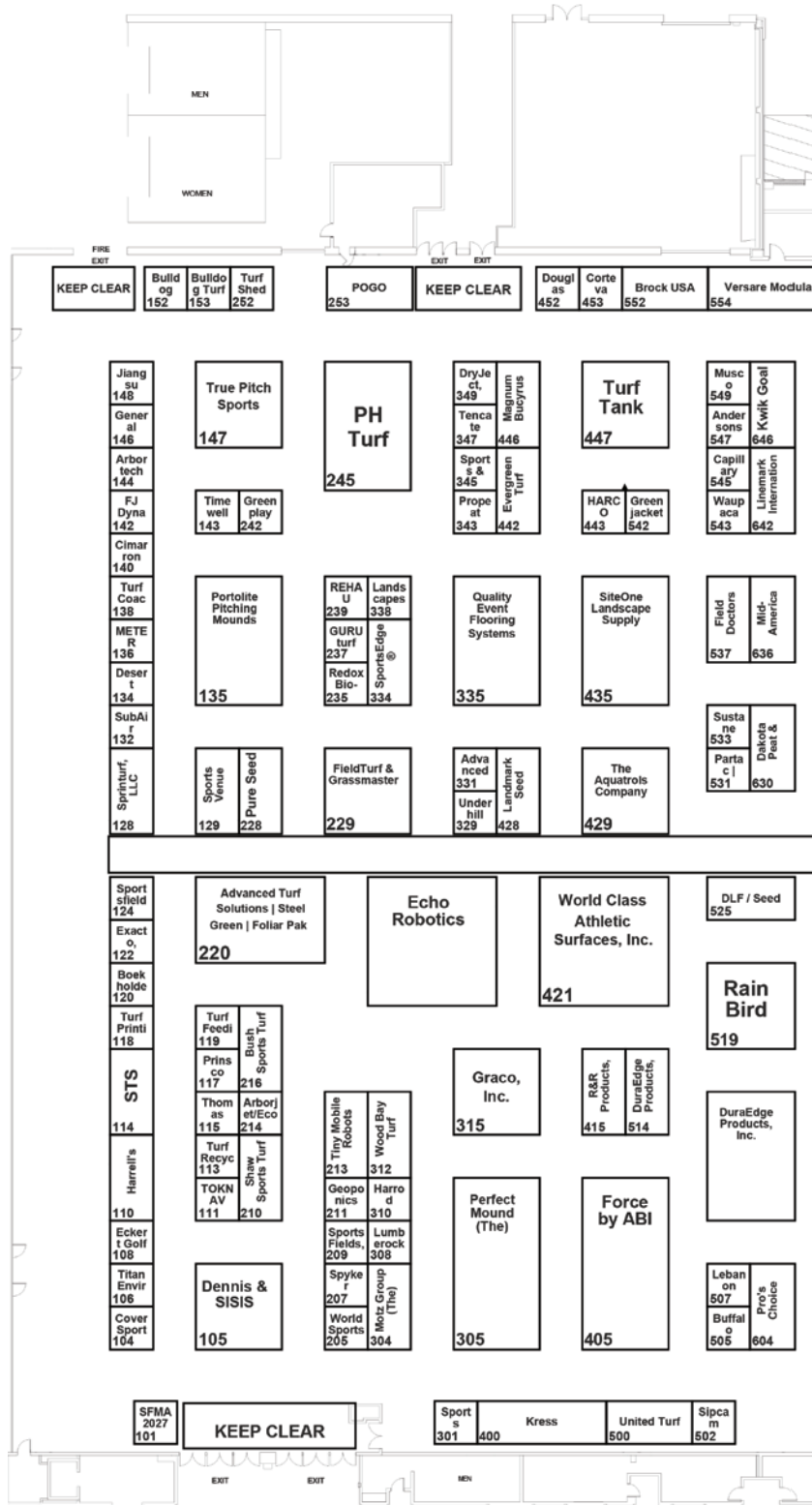
# EXHIBIT HALL MAP

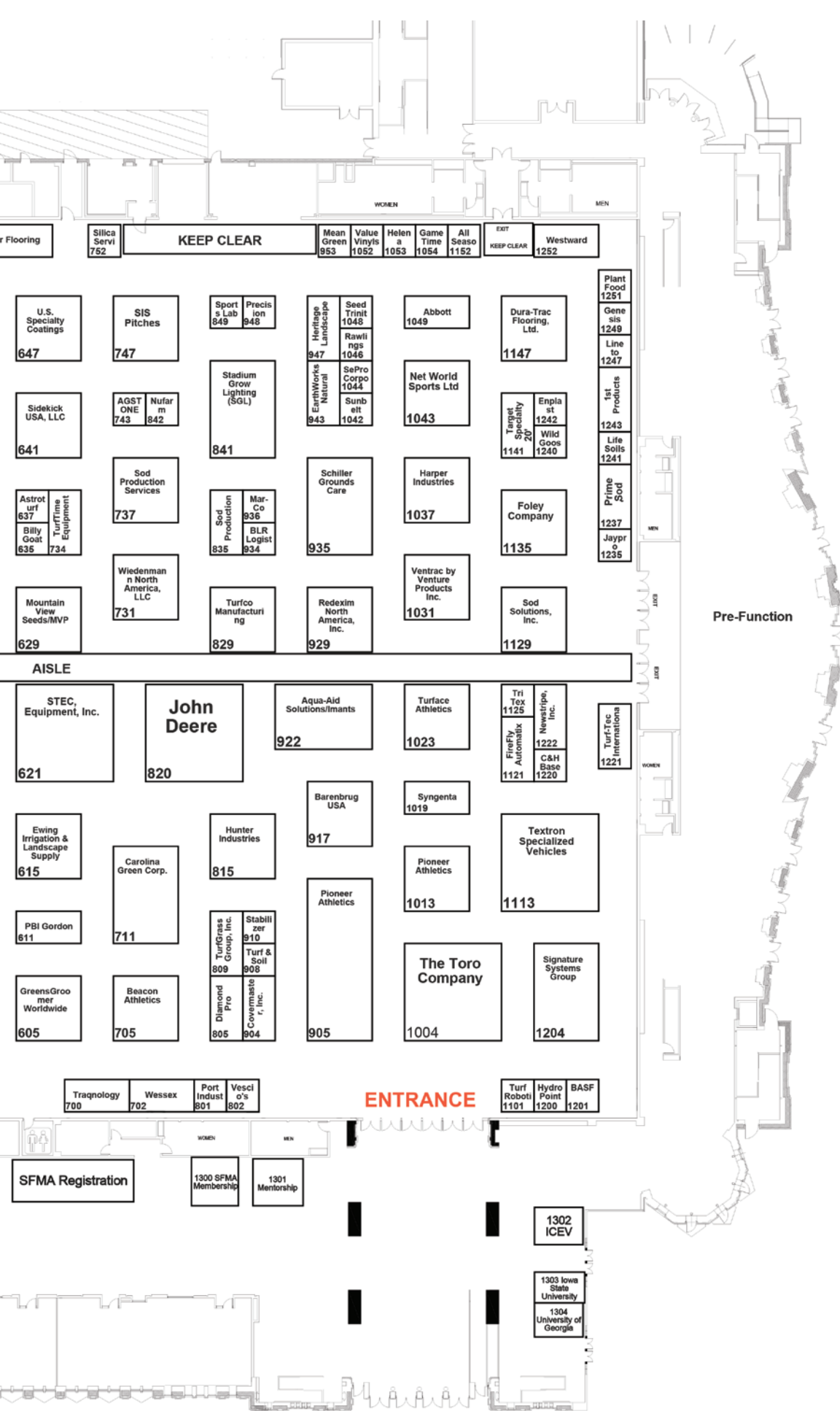


**FORT WORTH, TX**  
JANUARY 18-22, 2026

## FORT WORTH CONVENTION CENTER HALL ABC

FIRST LEVEL







## CONFERENCE EXHIBITORS

\*As of 12/15/25 - subject to change

| Company Name                                       | Booth Number |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1st Products                                       | 1243         |
| Abbott Rubber Company, Inc.                        | 1049         |
| Advanced Drainage Systems                          | 331          |
| Advanced Turf Solutions   Steel Green   Foliar Pak | 220          |
| AGSTONE LLC                                        | 743          |
| All Seasons Turf Grass                             | 1152         |
| Andersons (The)                                    | 547          |
| Aqua-Aid Solutions/Imants                          | 922          |
| Arborjet/Ecologel Solutions, LLC                   | 214          |
| Arbortech Tools USA                                | 144          |
| AstroTurf                                          | 637          |
| Barenbrug USA                                      | 917          |
| BASF                                               | 1201         |
| Beacon Athletics                                   | 705          |
| Billy Goat Industries                              | 635          |
| BLR Logistics, LLC                                 | 934          |
| Boekholder & Associates, LLC                       | 120          |
| Brock USA                                          | 552          |
| Buffalo Turbine                                    | 505          |
| Bulldog Field Equipment                            | 152          |
| Bulldog Turf Toys                                  | 153          |
| Bush Sports Turf                                   | 216          |
| C&H Baseball                                       | 1220         |
| Campey Turf Care Systems                           | 245          |
| Capillary Flow                                     | 545          |
| Carolina Green Corp.                               | 711          |
| Cimarron Sports                                    | 140          |
| Corteva Agriscience                                | 453          |
| Covermaster, Inc.                                  | 904          |
| CoverSports USA                                    | 104          |
| Dakota Peat & Equipment                            | 630          |
| Dennis & SISIS                                     | 105          |
| Desert Green Turf / NW Turf Solutions              | 134          |
| Diamond Pro                                        | 805          |
| DLF / Seed Research of Oregon                      | 525          |
| Douglas Sports                                     | 452          |
| DryJect, Inc.                                      | 349          |
| DuraEdge Products, Inc.                            | 511          |
| DuraEdge Products, Inc.                            | 514          |
| Dura-Trac Flooring, Ltd.                           | 1147         |
| EarthWorks Natural Organic Products                | 943          |
| Echo Robotics                                      | 320          |
| Eckert Golf Sales, Inc.                            | 108          |
| Enplast Technology                                 | 1242         |
| Evergreen Turf                                     | 442          |
| Ewing Irrigation & Landscape Supply                | 615          |
| Exacto, LLC                                        | 122          |
| Field Doctors                                      | 537          |

| Company Name                                        | Booth Number |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| FieldTurf & Grassmaster                             | 229          |
| Firefly Automatix                                   | 1121         |
| FJ Dynamics International Limited                   | 142          |
| Foley Company                                       | 1135         |
| Force by ABI                                        | 405          |
| GameTime Sports Systems, LLC                        | 1054         |
| Genesis Distribution/Turfgrass                      | 1249         |
| Geoponics Corp.                                     | 211          |
| GPM                                                 | 146          |
| Graco, Inc.                                         | 315          |
| Greenjacket Turf Covers                             | 542          |
| Greenplay Organics LLC                              | 242          |
| GreensGroomer Worldwide                             | 605          |
| Guangzhou Toksurvey Information Technology Co., Ltd | 111          |
| GURUscares                                          | 237          |
| HARCO Fittings                                      | 443          |
| Harper Industries                                   | 1037         |
| Harrell's                                           | 110          |
| Harrod Sport                                        | 310          |
| Helena Agri-Enterprises Booth                       | 1053         |
| Heritage Landscape Supply Group                     | 947          |
| Hunter Industries                                   | 815          |
| HydroPoint                                          | 1200         |
| ICEV                                                | 1302         |
| Iowa State University                               | 1303         |
| Jaypro Sports, Inc.                                 | 1235         |
| Jiangsu Vivaturf Artificial Grass Co. Ltd           | 148          |
| John Deere                                          | 820          |
| Kress                                               | 400          |
| Kwik Goal                                           | 646          |
| Landmark Seed                                       | 428          |
| Landscapes Unlimited, LLC                           | 338          |
| Lebanon Turf                                        | 507          |
| Life Soils                                          | 1241         |
| Line to Line                                        | 1247         |
| Linemark International                              | 642          |
| Lumberock Artisan                                   | 308          |
| Magnum Bucyrus Equipment Company                    | 446          |
| Mar-Co Clay Products                                | 936          |
| Mean Green Electric Mowers                          | 953          |
| Mentorship                                          | 1301         |
| METER Group                                         | 136          |
| Mid-America Sports Construction                     | 636          |
| Motz Group (The)                                    | 304          |
| Mountain View Seeds                                 | 629          |
| Musco Lighting + Iowa Sports Turf                   | 549          |
| Net World Sports Ltd                                | 1043         |
| Newstripe, Inc.                                     | 1222         |

## CONFERENCE EXHIBITORS

| Company Name                               | Booth Number |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Nufarm                                     | 842          |
| Partac Peat Corporation                    | 531          |
| PBI Gordon Corporation                     | 611          |
| Perfect Mound (The)                        | 305          |
| Pioneer Athletics                          | 905          |
| Pioneer Athletics                          | 1013         |
| Plant Food Company, inc.                   | 1251         |
| POGO TurfPro                               | 253          |
| Port Industries, Inc.                      | 801          |
| Portolite Pitching Mounds                  | 135          |
| Precision Turf, LLC                        | 948          |
| Prime Sod                                  | 1237         |
| Prinsco                                    | 117          |
| Propeat Fertilizer                         | 343          |
| Pro's Choice Sports Field Products         | 604          |
| Pure Seed                                  | 228          |
| Quality Event Flooring Systems             | 335          |
| R&R Products, Inc.                         | 415          |
| Rain Bird                                  | 519          |
| Rawlings Sporting Goods                    | 1046         |
| Redexim North America, Inc.                | 929          |
| Redox Bio-Nutrients                        | 235          |
| REHAU Construction LLC.                    | 239          |
| Schiller Grounds Care                      | 935          |
| Seed Trinity                               | 1048         |
| SePro Corporation                          | 1044         |
| SFMA 2027 Booth Sales and Information Desk | 101          |
| SFMA Membership                            | 1300         |
| Shaw Sports Turf                           | 210          |
| Sidekick USA, LLC                          | 641          |
| Signature Systems Group                    | 1204         |
| Silica Services Inc.                       | 752          |
| Sipcam Agro USA Inc.                       | 502          |
| SIS Pitches                                | 747          |
| SiteOne Landscape Supply                   | 435          |
| Sod Production Services                    | 737          |
| Sod Production Services                    | 835          |
| Sod Solutions, Inc.                        | 1129         |
| Sports & Stadia                            | 345          |
| SportsField Management magazine/EPG        | 301          |
| Sports Fields, Inc.                        | 209          |
| Sports Lab LLC                             | 849          |
| Sports Venue Padding                       | 129          |
| SportsEdge®                                | 334          |
| Sportsfield Specialties, Inc.              | 124          |
| Sprinturf, LLC                             | 128          |
| Spyker Spreaders                           | 207          |
| Stabilizer Solutions, Inc.                 | 910          |

| Company Name                        | Booth Number |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Stadium Grow Lighting (SGL)         | 841          |
| STEC Equipment, Inc.                | 621          |
| STS Turf                            | 114          |
| SubAir Systems                      | 132          |
| Sunbelt Rentals, Inc.               | 1042         |
| Sustane Natural Fertilizer, Inc.    | 533          |
| Syngenta                            | 1019         |
| Target Specialty Products           | 1141         |
| Tencate                             | 347          |
| Textron Specialized Vehicles        | 1113         |
| The Aquatrols Company               | 429          |
| The Toro Company                    | 1004         |
| Thomas Turfgrass                    | 115          |
| Timewell Drainage Products          | 143          |
| Tiny Mobile Robots                  | 213          |
| Titan Environmental                 | 106          |
| Traqnology North America            | 700          |
| Tri Tex Grass                       | 1125         |
| True Pitch Sports                   | 147          |
| Turf & Soil Diagnostics             | 908          |
| Turf Coach GmbH                     | 138          |
| Turf Feeding Systems, Inc.          | 119          |
| Turf Printing Enterprises LLC       | 118          |
| Turf Recyclers USA                  | 113          |
| Turf Robotics, LLC                  | 1101         |
| Turf Shed Tools                     | 252          |
| Turf Tank                           | 447          |
| Turfathletics                       | 1023         |
| Turfco Manufacturing                | 829          |
| TurfGrass Group, Inc. (The)/ TifTuf | 809          |
| Turf-Tec International              | 1221         |
| TurfTime Equipment                  | 734          |
| U.S. Specialty Coatings             | 647          |
| Underhill International             | 329          |
| United Turf and Track               | 500          |
| University of Georgia               | 1304         |
| Value Vinyls                        | 1052         |
| Ventrac by Venture Products Inc.    | 1031         |
| Versare Modular Flooring            | 554          |
| Vescio's Sports Fields, Inc.        | 802          |
| Waupaca Sand & Solutions            | 543          |
| Wessex International USA Inc        | 702          |
| Westward Vehicles                   | 1252         |
| Wiedenmann North America, LLC       | 731          |
| Wild Goose Chase, Inc.              | 1240         |
| Wood Bay Turf Technologies          | 312          |
| World Class Athletic Surfaces, Inc. | 421          |
| World Sports USA                    | 205          |



# Fort Worth

## TEXAS-USA

### An inside look at the SFMA Conference host city

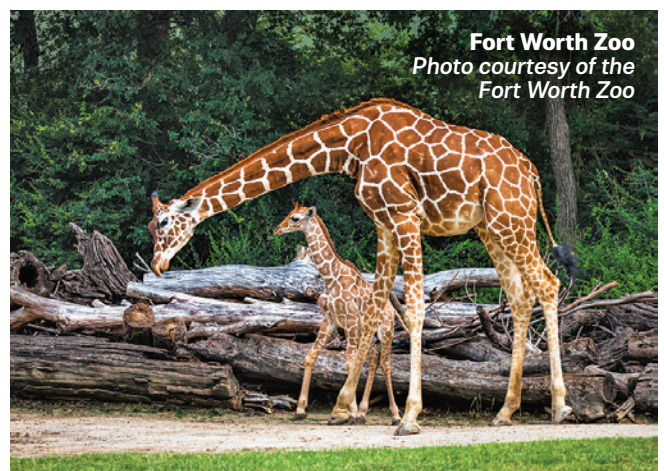
**F**ort Worth, Texas, host city for the 2026 SFMA Conference and Exhibition, is known for its hospitality and a dozen remarkable districts chock full of cultural experiences. The historic Fort Worth Stockyards feature the world's only twice-daily cattle drive; Billy Bob's Texas, the world's largest honky-tonk; and Mule Alley with restaurants, retail and the Hotel Drover. Downtown offers a variety of shopping, dining, live music and theater along the 37-block Sundance Square entertainment district. Enjoy world-class museums in the Cultural District, as well as a stunning Botanic Garden and award-winning Fort Worth Zoo, nearby. The following is an overview of things to see and do while in Fort Worth for the SFMA Conference.

#### **FORT WORTH WATER GARDENS**

Just steps from the Fort Worth Convention Center, the Water Gardens are a celebrated urban Texas masterpiece by architects Philip Johnson and John Burgee. With bold geometry, lush landscaping and captivating water features, this iconic destination offers a one-of-a-kind sensory journey. Wander by the Quiet Pool, where still waters invite calm and contemplation. Enjoy the playful fountains of the Aerating Pool, with its rising shapes and soothing currents. The Gardens' centerpiece is the Active Pool, with dramatic cascades of roaring water, inspiring awe whether viewed from above or down the thrilling walkway.

#### **THE FORT WORTH HERD**

See the Old West come to life with the world's only twice-daily cattle drive. Real Texas cowhands lead a herd of legendary longhorns down East Exchange in the Stockyards at 11:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. It's free for all, and every detail, from the drovers' saddles and chaps to their boots and hats, embodies authentic Texas heritage.





### FORT WORTH ZOO

The Fort Worth Zoo, ranked one of the top zoos in the nation, provides an entire day of fun for any family. Visit all four great ape species in the 2.5-acre world of primates or get eye-to-eye with some of the most endangered reptiles and amphibians on the planet. With more than 500 species, including 68 endangered or threatened species, the Fort Worth Zoo offers an unforgettable experience for visitors of all ages. One of the biggest attractions is Predators of Asia & Africa, a breathtaking big cat habitat that allows visitors to get an up-close view of some of the most magnificent felines on the planet.

### FORT WORTH BOTANIC GARDEN

This is a delightful respite in the busy city. You can meander through 23 specialty gardens such as the Japanese Gardens, Rose Garden and Cactus Garden. The oldest botanic garden in Texas, the Fort Worth Botanic Garden was recently selected as one of the South's most beautiful botanic gardens by *Southern Living* magazine.

### BASS PERFORMANCE HALL

For more than 25 years, the Nancy Lee and Perry R. Bass Performance Hall has been a Fort Worth icon and nationally distinguished performing arts venue. Built entirely with private funds, the Hall serves as a premier venue for national touring artists and Broadway productions, as well as a permanent home to the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, Texas Ballet Theater, Fort Worth Opera, the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition and the Cliburn.

### FORT WORTH MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND HISTORY

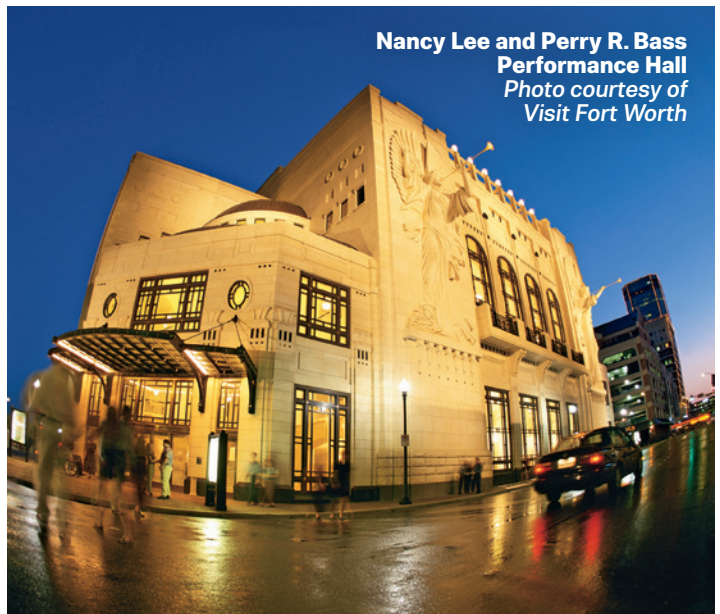
The Fort Worth Museum of Science and History is dedicated to extraordinary learning experiences for everyone. From engaging spaces in Innovation Studios to the Noble Planetarium where the mysteries of the cosmos unfold, exploration is what it's all about!

### AMON CARTER MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART

This free museum offers the most diverse and extensive collection of American art in Fort Worth and includes collections featuring the Plains Indians.



**Fort Worth Botanic Garden**  
Credit Austin James



**Nancy Lee and Perry R. Bass  
Performance Hall**  
Photo courtesy of  
Visit Fort Worth



**Fort Worth Museum of  
Science and History**  
Photo Nick Utter / N8 Visuals



### KIMBELL ART MUSEUM

The Kimbell's permanent collection contains holdings ranging from the third millennium B.C. to the mid-20th century, and includes major works by Fra Angelico, Velazquez, Bernini, Rembrandt, Goya, Monet, Cezanne, Picasso, Mondrian and Matisse. It is also home to Michelangelo's first known painting. The museum features special and traveling exhibits on display throughout the year.

### NATIONAL COWGIRL MUSEUM AND HALL OF FAME

The National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame is the only museum in the world dedicated to honoring trailblazing women of the American West. Its multimedia exhibits and historic photographs, papers, clothing, spurs and saddles tell the inspiring stories of remarkable women pioneers, ranchers, performers and rodeo stars.

### SUNDANCE SQUARE

Downtown Fort Worth is not only a great place to dine or see a show — it's also a wonderful place to shop. Fort Worth's Sundance Square is a multi-block downtown destination where you will find vibrant art, entertainment, dining and shopping anchored around the world-renowned Sundance Square Plaza. Stroll from shop to shop along red-brick streets and discover unique international, national and local products.

### FORT WORTH RESTAURANTS

Fort Worth's food scene reflects the city's layered identity. You'll find wood-fired pizza ovens, taquerías open past midnight, white-tablecloth spots focused on local ingredients, and casual kitchens specializing in world cuisines. Barbecue and Tex-Mex are still staples, but the scope is much broader, including West African and Korean restaurants, as well as no-frills diners serving up American staples.

The legacy of cattle drives and ranch cooking still shapes the menus at many old-school spots. Think chicken-fried steak, slow-cooked beans, and big breakfasts meant to last till sundown. Newer spots around Fort Worth lean into experimentation, with many places skipping the genre labels altogether. And if you're curious about craft beers, the Fort Worth Ale Trail will keep you busy.

A watering hole for downtown revelers, **Reata Restaurant** features a twist on ranch style cuisine. Don't miss the jalapeno and cheese elk sausage, tenderloin tamales and blackened buffalo rib eye. Be sure to visit the Reata rooftop for views of Sundance Square. **Grace** offers a comfortable-yet-



**Downtown Fort Worth**  
Credit Austin James



**Sundance Square**  
Photo by Darah Hubbard



**Reata Restaurant**  
Photo courtesy Visit Fort Worth



**Horseback riding**  
Photo courtesy Visit Fort Worth



modern setting, spectacular bar and outdoor terrace where guests can enjoy a seasonal cocktail like the pear martini, bacon wrapped dates, oysters and scallops. The sophisticated scene at **61 Osteria** is a perfect place to enjoy Italian food with a focus on simple, seasonal ingredients.

For the seafood lover, **Waters Restaurant** offers southwest flavors with a cajun twist like gumbo, crab-stuffed jalapenos and Oysters Texasfeller; **il Modo** is an intimate setting for traditional Italian fare; and **Picchi Pacchi** is a local favorite for massive pizzas, pasta, salads, calzones and sandwiches.

For barbecue lovers there is the legendary **Risky's BBQ**, serving up BBQ favorites for over 90 years. **Hopscotch**, a boozy snack bar in Sundance Square, features mixed and frozen drinks, wine, beer, pastries and snacks.

**Little Red Wasp Kitchen + Bar** offers straightforward food, beer and a full bar. For the brunch-goers, **Yolk** is a must-try for those looking for creative breakfasts and premium, private-label coffee.

Speaking of coffee, **Sons of Liberty** and **Buon Giorno Coffee** are great options for your morning java. Satisfy your sweet tooth at **Melt Ice Creams**, **La'Creamian** and **FunkyTown Donuts & Drafts**.

For a sortable database of Fort Worth restaurants, visit <https://www.fortworth.com/restaurants/>

## NIGHTLIFE

Nightlife is electric in downtown Fort Worth and the Sundance Square entertainment district. Whether you want a cozy, intimate setting to listen to jazz at Scat Jazz Lounge, or to sit under the Texas stars with live music at Sundance Square Plaza, this district has it all. Catch dueling pianists at Pete's Dueling Piano Bar. Tap into your inner bootlegger at speakeasies Thompson's Bookstore and Curfew. Sip wine or a cocktail at one of the Omni Hotel's bars, Whiskey & Rye and Wine Thief. Be sure to try some of Fort Worth's craft breweries like Cowtown Brewing Co. or Flying Saucer Draught Emporium.

Learn about distilling at Acre Distilling Co., the award-winning distillery that offers tours and tastings. Hang out in Hell's Half Acre bar, which also doubles as an event space and retail store. T&P Tavern is a pub located in the T&P train station, an authentic rail station pub with craft beer, wine, spirits and eats in a historic setting. **SFM**



**Little Red Wasp Kitchen + Bar**  
Credit Nathanael Gassett Photography



**Hell's Half Acre bar**  
Photo by Acre Distilling



**Downtown Fort Worth at night**  
Photo by wobblycairnphoto



# FIFA

## WORLD CUP 26

# Stadiums

The FIFA World Cup 26 will take place over three countries for the very first time, with Canada, Mexico and the USA set to share hosting duties in a groundbreaking edition of sport's greatest event. A total of 16 stadiums have been chosen to host the games, with some truly spectacular venues set to showcase the best in the beautiful game.

**Note:** All listed stadium capacities are preliminary at this stage and subject to change prior to the tournament. Stadium names for the FIFA World Cup 26 have been matched with host city names and may differ from the common designation used locally.

### CANADA

#### TORONTO STADIUM

**Location:** Toronto, Ontario, Canada

**Opened:** 2007

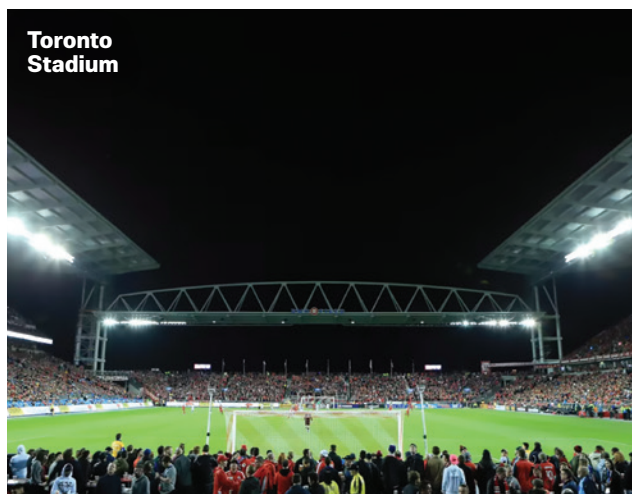
**Capacity:** 45,000

**Roof:** Canopy roof

**Turfgrass:** Kentucky bluegrass, hybrid reinforced fibers

**Sod origin:** Greenhorizons Sod Farms, Ontario

Pitch managers renovated the playing surface by installing a new rootzone and reinforcing the natural grass with 65 millimeters of synthetic fiber. Due to Toronto's colder climate, the stadium employs grow lights and an underground heating system to maintain the playing surface.



#### BC PLACE VANCOUVER

**Location:** Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

**Opened:** 1983

**Capacity:** 54,000

**Roof:** Dome

**Turfgrass:** Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass blend, hybrid reinforced fibers

**Sod origin:** Bos Sod Farms, British Columbia

Replacing an artificial turf surface, sod for the stadium was grown on plastic at a sod farm and installed in the stadium over 20 centimeters of sand with a drainage layer and a system that can bring water in and pull it out of the turfgrass.

## MEXICO

### MEXICO CITY STADIUM

**Location:** Mexico City, Mexico

**Opened:** 1966

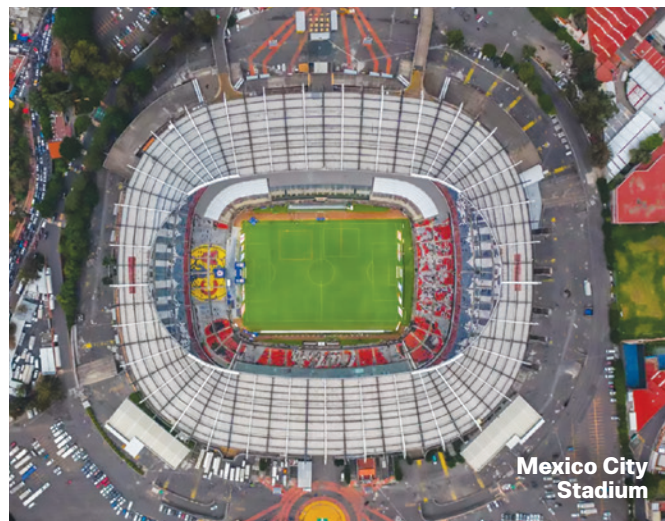
**Capacity:** 83,000

**Roof:** Open air

**Turfgrass:** Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass blend, hybrid reinforced fibers

**Sod origin:** Seeded at the stadium in December 2025

For the first time ever, the stadium converted to a cool-season grass in preparation for FIFA World Cup 26. Previously, it used kikuyu grass, which is native to Kenya. The new grass is appropriate for the average highs and lows of Mexico City.



Mexico City Stadium

### ESTADIO GUADALAJARA

**Location:** Zapopan, Jalisco, Mexico

**Opened:** 2010

**Capacity:** 48,000

**Roof:** Open air with overhangs for shade

**Turfgrass:** Bermudagrass, hybrid reinforced fibers

**Sod Origin:** Pasto Santa Cruz, Mexico

Estadio Guadalajara stands out for its construction — built on raised ground with a coliseum-like design — and its pitch is also unique. Underneath the turfgrass, along with 30 centimeters of sand and a gravel layer, are drain lines that act like a bathtub. They can be closed to prevent water from draining away, and they can fill up to irrigate from below. Water can also be pumped in or vacuumed out to ensure the right amount of moisture for the pitch.



Estadio Guadalajara

### ESTADIO MONTEREY

**Location:** Guadalupe, Nuevo Leon, Mexico

**Opened:** 2015

**Capacity:** 53,500

**Roof:** Open air with overhangs for shade

**Turfgrass:** Bermudagrass, hybrid reinforced fibers

**Sod Origin:** Pasto Santa Cruz, Mexico

Though the stadium has historically used bermudagrass, a pitch installed in 2025 uses a different variety of bermudagrass, researched by University of Tennessee (UT) experts, that is stitched and reinforced with synthetic fibers. One challenge of the stadium is that the overhangs provided for spectator comfort create a lot of shade patterns, making the use of grow lights necessary even in summer.



Estadio Monterrey





## USA

### ATLANTA STADIUM

**Location:** Atlanta, Georgia, USA

**Opened:** 2017

**Capacity:** 75,000

**Roof:** Retractable dome

**Turfgrass:** Kentucky bluegrass, hybrid reinforced fibers

**Sod Origin:** Green Valley Sod, Colorado

UT researchers devised a temporary build to cover the stadium's usual synthetic turf. Aluminum flooring covers the turf and serves as the base for a drainage layer of gravel, an irrigation system, and 20 centimeters of sand. A refrigerated truck transported the sod in rolls that were stitched together inside the stadium. This domed venue will be used for a large number of matches, so grow lights are necessary to keep the turfgrass healthy for a longer period of time.



### BOSTON STADIUM

**Location:** Foxborough, Massachusetts, USA

**Opened:** 2002

**Capacity:** 65,000

**Roof:** Open air

**Turfgrass:** Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass blend, hybrid reinforced fibers

**Sod Origin:** Tuckahoe Turf Farms, New Jersey

Originally a natural turfgrass stadium, Gillette Stadium changed to synthetic turf in 2006 but returned to natural turfgrass for FIFA World Cup 26. The synthetic turf was stripped down to the original layer of sand, which is the foundation for the hybrid-reinforced natural grass. Grow lights are on hand as a backup due to shade patterns made by spectator stands.



### DALLAS STADIUM

**Location:** Arlington, Texas, USA

**Opened:** 2009

**Capacity:** 94,000

**Roof:** Retractable

**Turfgrass:** Kentucky bluegrass, hybrid reinforced fibers

**Sod Origin:** Green Valley Sod, Colorado

The existing artificial turf was stripped down to the concrete floor to prepare for the installation of natural grass in the stadium. A layer of gravel helps with drainage, and 20 centimeters of sand form the base for the hybrid reinforced sod. Unlike most tournament venues, Dallas Stadium's grow lights hang from the ceiling instead of being rolled out onto the pitch on rigs.

### HOUSTON STADIUM

**Location:** Houston, Texas, USA

**Opened:** 2002

**Capacity:** 72,000

**Roof:** Retractable

**Turfgrass:** Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass blend, hybrid reinforced fibers

**Sod Origin:** Green Valley Sod, Colorado

The stadium is unique for its irrigation and drainage systems, which are built into the concrete floor that was originally constructed to accommodate modular synthetic turf systems. The replacement of its synthetic turf necessitated a layer of Perma-void — high-strength modular plastic cells used for drainage — and the field was built up with a geotextile fabric and sand.



Houston Stadium

### KANSAS CITY STADIUM

**Location:** Kansas City, Missouri, USA

**Opened:** 1972

**Capacity:** 73,000

**Roof:** Open air

**Turfgrass:** Bermudagrass, hybrid reinforced fibers

**Sod Origin:** Carolina Green, North Carolina

The stadium's playing surface was expanded to meet FIFA's criteria for pitches, which is 344 feet by 223 feet. For FIFA World Cup 26, the synthetic turf was replaced with a gravel layer, a vacuum ventilation system, 30 centimeters of sand, and sod made of bermudagrass. The sod will be shallowly stitched so it can be easily removed for the NFL season.



Kansas City Stadium

### LOS ANGELES STADIUM

**Location:** Inglewood, California, USA

**Opened:** 2020

**Capacity:** 70,000

**Roof:** Fixed translucent

**Turfgrass:** Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass blend, hybrid reinforced fibers

**Sod Origin:** Desert Green Sod, Washington

The pitch synthetic turf pitch was covered with concert flooring to prepare for installation of natural turfgrass. To improve the spectators' view, a 15-inch layer of Perma-void (high-strength modular plastic cells used for drainage) was added to the floor along with a geotextile fabric and 20 centimeters of sand.



Los Angeles Stadium





Miami Stadium

### MIAMI STADIUM

**Location:** Miami Gardens, Florida, USA

**Opened:** 1987

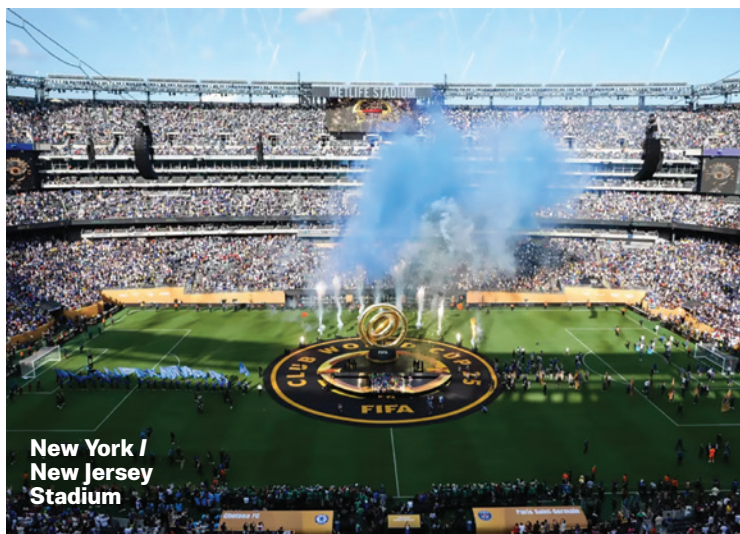
**Capacity:** 65,000

**Roof:** Open air with partial canopy

**Turfgrass:** Bermudagrass, hybrid reinforced fibers

**Sod Origin:** Miami

Even though the stadium is in sunny Florida, grow lights are used to help combat the shade from the canopies above the spectator stands as well as the periods of rain that are common in Miami's tropical climate. Unlike that in any of the other stadiums, the sod for Miami comes from its very own sod farm.



New York / New Jersey Stadium

### NEW YORK / NEW JERSEY STADIUM

**Location:** East Rutherford, New Jersey, USA

**Opened:** 2010

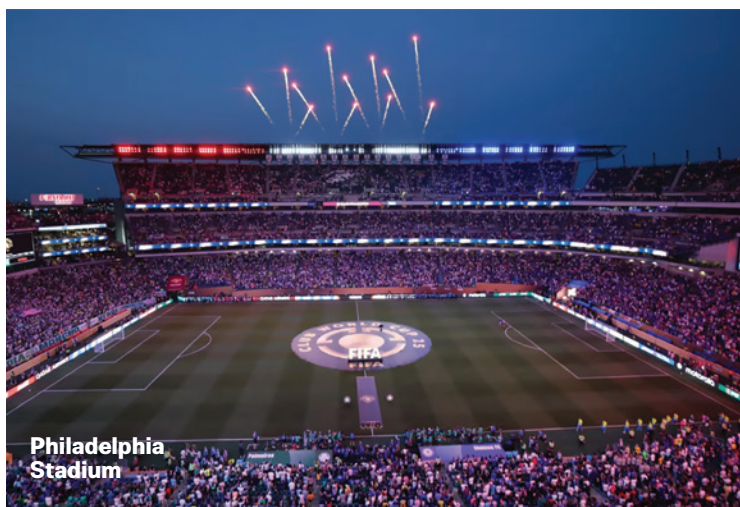
**Capacity:** 82,500

**Roof:** Open air

**Turfgrass:** Bermudagrass, hybrid reinforced fibers

**Sod Origin:** Tuckahoe Turf Farms, New Jersey

A temporary pitch was laid over the artificial turf of the stadium, which will host the FIFA World Cup 26 championship match. Before the natural grass pitch was laid on a foundation of aluminum concert flooring, gravel, and sand, more than 1,700 seats were removed to widen the field and make it compliant with FIFA's size requirements.



Philadelphia Stadium

### PHILADELPHIA STADIUM

**Location:** Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

**Opened:** 2003

**Capacity:** 69,000

**Roof:** Open air

**Turfgrass:** Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass blend, hybrid reinforced fibers

**Sod Origin:** Tuckahoe Turf Farms, New Jersey

The stadium will play host to a match on July 4, 2026—the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence at Philadelphia's Independence Hall, just five miles from the stadium. The pitch was installed over a foundation of gravel and 30 centimeters of sand. Grow lights will help the stadium maintain uniformity throughout the six matches scheduled for play.

### SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA STADIUM

**Location:** Santa Clara, California, USA

**Opened:** 2014

**Capacity:** 71,000

**Roof:** Open air

**Turfgrass:** Bermudagrass, hybrid reinforced fibers

**Sod Origin:** West Coast Turf, California

The natural grass turf is reinforced with synthetic fibers to stabilize the pitch and help it perform consistently across six matches. The fibers were installed with a shallow stitch, enabling the sod to be removed easily at the end of the tournament and a new surface to be installed for the NFL season.



### SEATTLE STADIUM

**Location:** Seattle, Washington, USA

**Opened:** 2002

**Capacity:** 69,000

**Turfgrass:** Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass blend, hybrid reinforced fibers

**Sod Origin:** Washington

To cover the stadium's synthetic turf for FIFA World Cup 26 matches, aluminum concert flooring was placed over the original turf, with a drainage layer of gravel, 20 centimeters of sand, and a system that can bring water in and pull it out. The weather in Seattle in June and July is great for the growth of grass, with less rain and longer days. **SFM**



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# Adaptability

In sports field management, few things go exactly as planned. Rain moves in right after you paint. A machine breaks down on game day. The shipment is delayed. A coach changes their mind about doing walk-throughs on the game field before the match. If you know the grind of this profession, you know that adaptability isn't optional, it's essential.

Adaptability doesn't mean going with the flow or accepting whatever happens, and it does not mean lowering expectations. It's about staying flexible without losing direction. It's a leadership mindset — one that allows you to make clear-headed adjustments without letting frustration or emotion take the wheel.

Every sports field manager knows that plans change, and every schedule, budget and growing season carries its own set of variables. The best leaders prepare for those changes before they happen. They coach their teams to pivot calmly and communicate clearly when the unexpected shows up — because it always will.

The hardest part of tarp pulls in minor league baseball is not getting the tarp out, it is getting rid of the water so the tarp can be removed from the field, and the game can quickly restart. One season, I had a storm dump more than two inches of water on our tarp. We had exactly three squeegees, which would've taken hours. We borrowed blowers from the Kid's Zone inflatables and ran them under the tarp during the rain. We were able to remove the tarp within minutes of that downpour. That delay became an opportunity to build efficiency instead of tension. Every tarp pull after that included some type of blower to help shed water faster. That's adaptability. It's not luck or coincidence — it's leadership under pressure.

Adaptability doesn't mean every decision is perfect. It means the leader stays steady enough to assess, decide and move — even when the path forward isn't obvious. Many professionals have wrestled with how to balance being adaptable without appearing inconsistent. The key is understanding that adaptability doesn't change your standards; it just changes your strategy. You still aim for the same level of excellence; you just might need to take a different route to get there.

Adaptable leaders also communicate those adjustments clearly. They explain the “why” behind every shift, not just the “what.” When your crew understands the reasoning, they buy in faster and work with confidence. Without that communication, even good adjustments can feel like chaos.

One of the most valuable habits I've seen on successful field teams is ending the day with three quick questions:

- 1) What went as planned?
- 2) What changed?
- 3) What did we learn?

That short reflection helps everyone grow sharper and more solution-minded. Over time, it builds a culture where adaptability becomes second nature.

When that culture takes hold, teams stop fearing change and start managing it. You know you have built something special when your crew not only works hard, but works smart.

Adaptability is what keeps us in this profession year after year. The turf doesn't wait for ideal conditions, and neither do games. Every season challenges our ability to adjust while maintaining high standards. We learn to think on our feet, solve problems with limited resources, and stay focused on the bigger goal of providing a safe, beautiful and playable surface no matter what challenges come.

Adaptability is the root that keeps leadership alive through every season. It allows us to recover from setbacks, learn from mistakes, and stay steady in the storm. You can't control every variable, but you can control how you respond. And in the eyes of your team, your response sets the tone.

In sports field management, change isn't the enemy. It's required for the environment in which we work. The leaders who thrive are those who embrace change, bend without breaking, stay calm in chaos, and see opportunity in the unexpected.

Leadership, like turf, grows best when it's tested; and adaptability is the stolon that helps it keep spreading, no matter the season. **SFM**

[Editor's note: This article is part of an eight-part series on the Stolons of Leadership.]



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# Worker Protection

## **Q: Does the Worker Protection Standard (WPS) regulation apply to sports field managers and their facilities?**

*[Authors Note: The WPS is a federal regulation (law) that requires employers to provide specific pesticide training for agriculture workers and pesticide handlers, as well as access to specific safety information and equipment. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state agencies enforce the WPS.]*

**A:** When this question came up in a recent meeting, I was reluctant to answer before referring to EPA's Pesticide Worker Safety website. A quick reference check found that the standard excludes most turfgrass management operations except those establishments that produce turfgrass for commercial sale, transplanting to another area of the same facility, or research purposes.

Although most turfgrass operations are exempt from WPS, OSHA and state regulations still apply to facilities that use equipment or pesticides. Many of the rules, requirements and laws by the various federal and state pesticide regulatory groups are cross-referenced across agencies. So, for practical purposes, the content in the WPS still generally applies to turfgrass managers and their facilities, although not specifically as part of the WPS.

Best management practices at all sports field facilities should follow precautions to protect employees from pesticide exposure. While not an exhaustive list, under WPS, all employers are required to do the following:

- Provide annual pesticide safety training.
- Provide Safety Data Sheets for all pesticides applied on the site.
- Provide access to labeling information for all pesticides applied on the site.
- Provide decontamination supplies.
- Provide Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) in clean and good operating condition.
- Ensure PPE is worn.

- Dispose of contaminated PPE.
- Conduct fit tests and respirator training when required.
- Display certain pesticide safety and hazard information in a centralized location.
- Keep pesticide records for at least two years.

Every state has pesticide-related laws and regulations that they expect facilities and applicators to follow. In North Carolina, the NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services is tasked with protecting public health, safety and welfare, and to promote continued environmental quality by minimizing and managing risks associated with the legal use of pesticides. I often get asked if a license is required to spray glyphosate weed killer on school grounds (i.e., public property). In North Carolina, and perhaps also in your state, a pesticide license is required for anyone who applies pesticide in their course of work. It is important to know your state's pesticide laws. If in doubt, check with your state department of agriculture for clarification on specific rules that apply to your situation. They may also offer training opportunities that you or your employees could attend.

The WPS provides rules that make sense and allow monitoring for compliance. The requirements seem reasonable. It is important to spend time reviewing the labels for all the chemicals that are purchased to make sure you have the required PPE on hand for your employees. Keep supplies on hand to deal with pesticide spills and leaks. Lastly, make sure all your pesticide safety equipment is available and in good working condition. Nothing is worse than an employee needing to use a portable eye wash and the eye-flush bottle is empty. Do everything you can to protect your team and your fields. **SFM**



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### **Questions?**

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