

Membership Application

SportsTurf MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

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Direct Supervisor Name _____

Membership Category:

- Sports Turf Manager \$110
 Sports Turf Manager Associate* (Additional member(s) from the same facility) \$75

Please select the primary facility type where you are employed:

Professional Sports Higher Education Schools K-12 Parks and Recreation

- Academic \$95
 Student (verification of enrollment) \$25
 Commercial \$295
 Commercial Associate* (Additional member(s) from the same commercial company) \$75

Affiliate (Person who is indirectly or on a part-time basis, involved in the maintenance/management of sports fields) \$50

Chapter Dues (contact headquarters for amount)
Chapter name) _____ \$ _____

Contribution To SAFE Foundation (research, education and scholarship): \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Payment Method:

Check Money Order Purchase Order #: _____

Credit Card: Mastercard Visa American Express Discover

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*There must already be a national sports turf manager from your facility or commercial member from your company before you may sign up in the Associate category.

Fax to: (785) 843-2977

Or mail with payment to:
Sports Turf
Managers Association
P.O. Box 414029
Kansas City, MO 64141

"I know I am a better sports turf manager because of this association. As sports turf managers, we take the challenge seriously to make our fields the best possible for the next game. The resources I have access to through STMA helps me do it."

— Bob Campbell, CSFM
Higher Education
Membership Segment

Phone: 800-323-3875

www.STMA.org

STMA.org provides many resources

THE STMA WEBSITE, www.STMA.org, has numerous educational resources available to members and non-members.

Public

Access to various educational resources is available to anyone under the Knowledge Center tab on the STMA website. Even if you are not an STMA member, you can access valuable information that will assist in the safety and playability of your athletic surfaces. Topics available in the Knowledge Center include:

- Conference Education – access the educational materials presented at our Annual Conference and Exhibition for the past 3 years. Materials include PowerPoint presentations, notes, handouts, and relevant articles.
- Turfgrasses – resources that help you manage both cool and warm season turfgrasses successfully
 - Construction/Renovation – provides tips on how to construct, reconstruct, renovate, and maintain your sports fields and facilities
 - Health & Safety – resources that promote safe practices in the workplace ranging from back injury prevention, to chemical safety, to motor vehicle safety.
 - Recordkeeping – everything you need to maintain detailed records for your shop, grounds, equipment, and staff. This includes field maintenance resources, equipment records, budget resources, and employee records.
 - Environmental Stewardship – resources that address environmental stewardship for athletic facilities and athletic fields. This includes Integrate Pest Management (IPM) and organic management practices. Water conservation resources are also provided.
 - Cultural Practices – access information on fertilization, irrigation, and drainage.
 - Sports Field Dimensions – receive step by step instructions on how to accurately measure and paint all of your athletic fields
 - Multimedia – here you can access education sessions that were recorded at the 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013 annual conferences. In addition, STMA- and University- produced podcasts and webinars cover various turfgrass management topics including fertilization, heat stress, cold temperature injury, and more.
 - Turfgrass Insects, Weeds, and Diseases – contains information for identifying and controlling turfgrass pests
 - Synthetic Fields – resources include research articles and publications that cover benefits, drawbacks, and management of synthetic turf fields

- Guías en Español – a page dedicated to Spanish speaking sports turf managers, which allows access to field management bulletins translated to Spanish.

- University Turf Sites & Turfgrass Faculty and University Publications - links to information, research, and people from higher education institutions across the country.

Members Only

Much of the information on the Members Only side mirrors the public side. However, STMA members are allowed access to in-depth research and technical bulletins. Resources can be accessed by logging in as an STMA member and accessing any of the categories under the Knowledge Center.

- Construction/Renovation – in addition to what is available to the public, information on constructing field slope and proper rootzone, as well as selecting the correct turfgrass is available.
- Cultural Practices – information on fertilization includes an analysis of plant responses

to nutrient applications and bulletins that address soil tests, nitrogen sources, and fertilizer calibration. Information on irrigation provides sports turf managers further explanation about rootzones, water tables, and irrigation systems. Information on drainage includes drainage systems and dealing with flooding events.

- Environmental Stewardship – resources include various ways to implement environmental initiatives at your facility including recycling, water efficiency, stormwater management, transportation, lighting, and more. Initiatives for athletic fields include turfgrass species selection, cultural practices, and integrated pest management. Water conservation resources are also available including STMA bulletins on “Field Management During a Drought” and “Effective Water Use”.

- Health and Safety – Athlete safety is a priority for sports turf managers. Therefore, STMA provides resources to help members understand how to maintain safe playing surfaces. Bulletins such as “Thatch Management” and “Strategies for Managing Heavily-Used Fields”

Construction & Renovation Bulletins

Check out the following technical bulletins available to members only to assist with construction and renovation processes:

- 8 Steps to an Easy Field Facelift
- Football Practice Techniques that Help Minimize Field Wear
- Strategies for Managing Heavily-Used Fields
- Thatch Management
- Sprigging Bermudagrass
- Understanding Soil Tests
- Flooding on Sports Fields
- Snow Removal
- Football/Soccer Safety and Maintenance Checklist
- Baseball/Softball Safety and Maintenance Checklist
- The STMA Collection of ASTM Standards for Athletic Fields
- A Guide to Synthetic and Natural Turfgrass for Sports Fields - Selection, Construction and Maintenance Considerations
- Advisory Bulletin 1: Determining the Right Sports Field for Your Athletes
- Advisory Bulletin 2: Suggested Equipment List
- Advisory Bulletin 3: In-House; Architect-Bid-Contractor; Design-Build; Owner's Representative... What works best for building your sports field?
- Advisory Bulletin 4: The Fundamentals of Project Management
- Advisory Bulletin 5: 'Lessons Learned': Peer Advice on the Management of Synthetic Sports Fields
- Natural Grass Athletic Fields for High Schools
- Natural Grass Athletic Fields for High Schools PowerPoint
- Defending Your "Turf" - Play Offense

are available in addition to field safety and maintenance checklists.

- Multimedia – members can access the Mound Building and Home Plate Maintenance and Infield Maintenance Instructional videos.

- Professional Development - If you are looking for a job, resources that help you write a cover letter and resume and ace an interview are available. If already employed, bulletins on communication, leadership, and workplace issues are also available.

- Synthetic Fields – In addition to what is available on the public side, members can access additional advisory bulletins that give recommendations for equipment, project management, and more.

- Turfgrasses – more in-depth information is available for sports turf managers to determine which type of turfgrass will best meet the needs of athletes and perform the best on the field.

- STMA Educational Bulletins – STMA members can access bulletins that cover a wide range of turfgrass management topics including seasonal field maintenance calendars for cool season, warm season, and transition zone regions, field management, environmental stewardship, safety, synthetic fields, professional development, construction and renovation, and business practices. ■

SAFE Foundation expands Board

THE FOUNDATION FOR SAFER ATHLETIC FIELDS FOR EVERYONE (SAFE), STMA's Charity, has expanded its Board to 12 people. In 2012, SAFE had nine board members. "The expanded board adds new depth of experience to better help us pursue our key goals this year," said Chairman of the Board of Trustees Cathy Bradley. "Our focus in 2013 is to increase community outreach efforts as well as to continue to pursue our fundraising goals."

Past fundraising efforts include the events held in conjunction with the STMA conference, such as the auctions, raffles, casino night and a golf tournament. For the first time, SAFE is developing an interactive community educational component. "Providing maintenance staff, coaches, volunteers and parent groups with education on how to care for their field is a very important component of ensuring player safety," said Bradley. The educational outreach is planned for the San Antonio area around the STMA national conference in January.

In addition to Chairman Bradley, who is also the Executive Director of the Baseball Tomorrow Fund, SAFE Officers include:

Vice-Chair Allen Johnson, CSFM, Fields Manager, Green Bay Packers

Secretary Steve Wightman, Retired Sports Turf Manager

Treasurer Doug Schattinger, President, Pioneer Manufacturing

Trustees
Jon Butler, Executive Director, Pop Warner Little Scholars

Ken Curry, Vice President, Covermaster, Inc.
David B. Houseknecht, Sr. VP of Administration/CFO, Little League International

Debra Kneeshaw, Lead Park Technician, City of Portland Parks & Recreation

Gil Landry, Jr., Ph.D., Professor/Turfgrass Management, University of Georgia-Griffin Campus

Chad Price, CSFM, CFB, President, Carolina Green Corp.

Paula Sliefert, Sr. Marketing Manager, The Toro Company

Jay Warnick, CSFM, Athletic Fields Manager, University of Portland

The SAFE Executive Director is also the CEO of STMA, Kim Heck. ■

STMA Affiliated Chapters Contact Information

Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona: www.azstma.org

Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association: www.cstma.org

Florida #1 Chapter (South):
305-235-5101 (Bruce Bates) or Tom Curran
CTomSell@aol.com

Florida #2 Chapter (North): 850-580-4026,
John Mascaro, john@turf-tec.com

Florida #3 Chapter (Central): 407-518-2347,
Scott Grace, scott@sundome.org

Gateway Chapter Sports Turf Managers Association: www.gatewaystma.org.

Georgia Sports Turf Managers Association: www.gstma.org.

Greater L.A. Basin Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association: www.stmalabasin.com.

Illinois Chapter STMA: www.ILSTMA.org.

Intermountain Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association:
<http://imstma.blogspot.com/>

Indiana - FORMING - Contact Clayton Dame, Claytondame@hotmail.com or Brian Bornino, bornino@purdue.edu or Contact Joey Stevenson, jstevenson@indyindians.com

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association: www.iowaturfgrass.org.

Kentucky Sports Turf Managers Association: www.kystma.org.

Keystone Athletic Field Managers Org. (KAFMO/STMA): www.kafmo.org.

Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MiSTMA): www.mistma.org.

Minnesota Park and Sports Turf Managers Association: www.mpstma.org

MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association: www.mokanstma.com.

Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association: sphillips4@unlnotes.unl.edu

New England STMA (NESTMA): www.nestma.org.

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey: www.sfmanj.org.

Sports Turf Managers of New York: www.stmony.org.

North Carolina Chapter of STMA: www.ncsportsturf.org.

Northern California STMA: www.norcalstma.org.

Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA): www.ostma.org.

Oklahoma Chapter STMA: 405-744-5729;
Contact: Dr. Justin Moss okstma@gmail.com

Oregon STMA Chapter:
www.oregonsportsturfmanagers.org
oregonstma@gmail.com

Ozarks STMA: www.ozarksstma.org.

Pacific Northwest Sports Turf Managers Association: www.pnwstma.org.

Southern California Chapter: www.socalstma.com.

South Carolina Chapter of STMA: www.sc-stma.org.

Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA): www.tvstma.com.

Texas Sports Turf Managers Association: www.txstma.org

Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association: www.vstma.org.

Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association: www.wstma.org.

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1 What is your company's primary business? (check *ONLY ONE*)

- F Sports Complex G Athletic Field and/or Park Architect/Designer
T School, College or University P Park
H Other (please specify) _____

2 Which of the following best describes your title? (check *ONLY ONE*)

- A EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATOR — President, Owner, Partner, Director, General Manager, Chairman of the Board, Purchasing Agent, Athletic Director
B MANAGER/SUPERINTENDENT — Superintendent, Landscape/Ground Maintenance Manager, Foreman, Supervisor
C GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL — Government Commissioner, Agent, Other Government Official
D SPECIALIST — Architect, Designer, Consultant, Agronomist, Horticulturist, Certified Specialist
F COACH E Other (please specify) _____

3 Do you have the authority to buy, specify or recommend products and/or services for your business or organization?

Y Yes N No

4 Yearly operating expenditures (excluding salaries)

- F Over \$1 million C \$50,001 - \$100,000
E \$500,001 - \$1 million B \$25,001 - \$50,000
D \$100,001 - \$500,000 A \$25,000 and under

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Q&A



BY DR. GRADY MILLER

Professor, North Carolina State University

Questions?

Send them to
Grady Miller at

North Carolina State University,
Box 7620, Raleigh, NC 27695-
7620, or email
grady_miller@ncsu.edu

Or, send your
question to

David Minner at
Iowa State University, 106 Horti-
culture Hall, Ames, IA 50011
or email
dminner@iastate.edu.

I've seen this movie before

I am a parent of a student-athlete and volunteer with our local high school in preparing their baseball field. I have an agriculture background but it does not include turfgrass except for what I have picked up the past few years while working on the field. The school has decided that it is finally time for a major renovation to address the field's significant drainage problem and the poor infield grass. Do you do this type of work and can you give us an estimate of what it would cost?

North Carolina

It is not unusual to get these types of questions from schools several times a year. The questions almost always have the same elements—concerned volunteer, functional problems with a field, and financial constraints. The problems with the field have often been tolerated for years and a tipping point has finally been reached. That point is often reached after the “volunteer” has heavily lobbied the school administration for a change and they are given a go-ahead to investigate. Then I get an e-mail or phone call, hoping the University can jump-start the process.

From the broad “need help” perspective, these are generally long-term matters that are not easily addressed with a simple response. My experience from an extension specialist perspective has been that political, emotional, and financial influences combine to make these matters complex. Often the school is not fully prepared for how much it may cost to properly renovate their field, so the project may never pass the fact-finding stage. Then all the dynamics of the people involved with planning and approving, plus back-door politics that can doom a project.

My initial role is to bring a group together that can get their arms around the entire project, not

just one facet. I usually provide a list of Certified Field Builders that work in their area. In North Carolina we have some great ones, so this is an easy step for me. I am happy to work with a school in their discussions with a builder if they want an unbiased intermediary to help them with terminology or processes. With adequate funding up front and good weather during renovation, these projects often end with happy customers.

I will assist as much as possible to educate people to try and minimize the influence of politics, while staying out of the price aspects. My contribution often includes agronomic information for items such as grassing specifications, grow-in programs, maintenance calendars, etc., that can be useful in pre-bid or post-construction.

Recently, I visited a high school football field at the request of a volunteer. I met with a volunteer, several coaches, the athletic director, and a county operations representative. I could feel the tension among them in the pre-inspection meeting. After a field assessment, I left and promised I would get back with them within a couple of days. The field was in horrible shape.

That afternoon I called a field builder and was bouncing a few scenarios past him without mentioning any school names. He immediately called out the name of the school field I had visited. He said that he had been to that field four or five times over the past several years and they could never seem to get all the needed pieces together to get the field re-built. His visits spanned several coaches and athletic administrators, but with the same county representative. Guess who was not on board! And to some extent that can be understandable. The worse shape the field is in, the more work it needs,

may translate to greater cost. Someone has to pay for the work and no group seems to have much extra money in their budget.

The previous example is a good reminder why enthusiastic volunteers and eager coaches are not always enough to push through a successful field renovation. School boards and county officials also have to see the need for renovation before they are prepared to see them done correctly. I emphasize “correctly” because nothing is worse than visiting a 1- to 3-year old field that was constructed so poorly that it needs to be bulldozed and started new.

This was the case in one of the fields I visited last year. I was asked to come out to this new school and inspect their baseball field, especially the clay base paths and warning track. The coach told me that his players picked up so much infield clay on their cleats running bases that they were 6 inches taller by the time they reach 2nd base. A local individual had sold them a clay-based soil he said was suitable for a ballfield skinned area. The school had not budgeted for the needed clay replacement.

So the answer to the question is not so simple. I do that type of work, but I do not do it the way they probably imagined. I think my extension colleagues across the US would respond similarly. We want all parties to envision and accept the entire process and what it means to the school and the participants that use the field. Then we want to help them find the best people to accomplish the renovation. I do not price out projects. But I have found field builders to be generous people that are willing to work with varying budgets. In the end, we all just want better fields. ■

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