

Membership Application

SportsTurf MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

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Please select the primary facility type where you are employed:

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

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Chapter name) _____ \$ _____

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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.

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Managers Association
P.O. Box 414029
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"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
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www.STMA.org

STMA Awards Committee highlights process

THE SPORTS TURF MANAGERS ASSOCIATION AWARDS COMMITTEE is responsible for judging three awards programs annually. These programs are the Field of the Year, Minor League Baseball Sports Turf Manager of the Year and the Innovative Awards. Each program has its own program rules, submittal procedures and judging criteria.

Field of the Year

Awards are made in baseball, football, soccer, softball, and sporting grounds in the following applicable categories: schools or parks, professional, and collegiate. Two hundred and fifteen fields have been selected to receive this honor since the program began in 1988. The first field type recognized was baseball fields.

Two years ago this program moved completely online, although applicants are allowed to send their photos on a CD or flash drive to help simplify the process. An online application was desired to make certain that each applicant was judged solely on the information provided, and not the packaging in which it was sent. Some facilities with higher budgets would send in bound books and graphically designed applications. "Moving to an online process has added another element of impartiality to the process," says Andrew Gossel, Awards Committee Chairman. "The committee already independently scores and judges the applications; online strengthens objectivity," he says.

The application requires that a field have two full seasons of play before being submitted. Play can be concurrent. However, the judges desire to have the information in the application reflect the full year of management practices. According to Gossel, "The judges look for those fields that have a comprehensive management program. The field may have had some challenges to overcome throughout the year. We're not looking for the largest budgets, but how well utilized the budgets are in preparing the field for play." Photos of the field throughout the entire year are also required as is membership in STMA.

If a sports turf manager wishes to enter two fields; that is certainly acceptable, but two separate applications will need to be submitted. The

application requires that four Playing Conditions Indices be conducted. "Our PCI is a great way for the judges to understand how a field is playing at a certain point in time considering all of the factors affecting it," Gossel says. "It really is a useful tool for the sports turf manager and for the committee."

When asked what advice he would give to those who are submitting their field, Gossel cites three things: "Take your time with the application and really include thorough information about your field. Watch your grammar and spelling; an application with misspellings and poor grammar is not very professional. Finally, write a compelling reason why the committee should consider your field a winner," says Gossel.

The 2013 Field of the Year application is on line at www.STMA.org under the Professionalism tab. Applications are due October 15. Winners will be notified by November 8. Those who are selected will receive three nights' lodging at the upcoming Conference, a complimentary conference registration, signature clothing, and the award, which is presented during the annual banquet. The winner will also be featured in an upcoming issue of *SportsTurf* magazine and may be featured on the cover.

Minor League Baseball Sports Turf Managers of the Year

STMA in partnership with Minor League Baseball (MiLB) presents an award each year to the Minor League Baseball Sports Turf Manager in four classifications: Triple A, Double A, Single A and Short Season or Rookie.

The MiLB has a process to select its own sports turf manager league winner. They provide to STMA the 16 league winners; STMA provides the application and criteria to each of the league winners. They subsequently apply for this award. Some of the information they must submit includes photos, narratives on their game day routines, cultural practices, letters from their league president and general manager and their involvement in the industry. All materials are required to be submitted electronically.

The deadline for this program varies; it depends upon the timing when MiLB has all of their league winners identified. Winners are announced in October and are honored during the MiLB Awards luncheon during the Baseball Winter Meetings.

Innovative Awards Program

This program seeks to recognize those commercial companies that are advancing the profession of sports turf management through innovation.

Any STMA Commercial member who is exhibiting at the upcoming STMA Annual Conference and Exhibition is eligible to submit one entry annually. The company must display the innovation in its booth and have introduced it for sale between the close of the current year's STMA show and the close of the following year's show.

The judging criteria focuses on if a product, service, equipment or technology enhances the effectiveness of the sports turf manager and/or makes the surface safer and more playable for athletes. When submitting for this award, Gossel advises that the definition of innovative be kept at the forefront. "From our judges' perspective, innovative really means that the submittal is cutting edge and has not been seen before. Slight improvements to existing products are good for the industry, but really don't qualify for this award," Gossel says.

Any commercial member on the committee recuses him/herself from judging this award and is not involved in this program in any way. The Committee may award multiple companies that meet the criteria.

All applications are submitted electronically, and are due by October 15. The application is online at www.STMA.org, under the Professionalism tab.

Winner(s) will be kept confidential until announced during the first day of the STMA Trade Show. A special innovative logo has been designed and winners will be able to use that logo in their promotion of the winning product, service, technology or equipment. STMA will publicize the winners through its communication vehicles, STMA press releases, signage at the conference, and with special recognition during the Annual Awards Banquet.

Judging these programs takes the Awards Committee more than 30 hours of volunteer time over a 2-3 week period. Members of the Committee include: Chairman Andrew Gossel, Alan Dungey, Ben Polimer, Charlie Vestal, Chris Ralston, Dean Rush, CSFM, George Trivett, CSFM, Grant Davisson, Joey Fitzgerald, Keith Gorczyca, Lance Tibbetts, CSFM, Matt Anderson, Michael Buras, CSFM, Patrick Coakley, CSFM, Sarah Martin, CSFM, and William McBride, Sr. If any of these members know a sports turf manager who has submitted for the Field of the Year or the MiLB Sports Turf Manager, they reveal that to the Committee and do not judge that particular submittal. Scoring totals are reflected on a percentage basis for this reason.

STMA receives generous support from Carolina Green, Ewing, Hunter and World Class Athletic Surfaces for these Awards Programs. This funding allows STMA to enhance the program each year.

The 2013 Field of the Year application is on line at www.STMA.org under the Professionalism tab. Applications are due October 15.

A Perfect Fit

DO YOU WORK PART-TIME on sports fields or supervise someone who does? Perhaps you are a coach or a parent who helps to care for a sports field? These and others who are indirectly involved in sports turf management can join STMA as an Affiliate member.

Affiliate membership costs \$50 and provides all of the benefits entitled to a sports turf manager member, except that there are no voting privileges. This category is also ineligible to serve on the national Board of Directors.

An Affiliate member has access to the many educational resources that can help with field safety for athletes. The STMA website has resources available when you need them. Members find information on virtually every topic that is important to sports turf management from specific calendars for field management practices by season to how to communicate with your community field providers.

For information on how to join, go to www.STMA.org and click on Join Now, or fill out the application in this issue.

Thank You, 25+ Year Members!

STMA is very pleased to recognize its long-time members. We are fortunate to have their continued support and involvement in the association. They are an important part of STMA's history and have helped to shepherd the association on its journey for the past 25+ years!

32 Years

- STMA's Inaugural Year 1981

George Bannerman
Richard Ericson
James Flynn
David Frey
Mike Schiller, CSFM
George Toma
Steve Wightman

31 Years

- Joined in 1982

John Fik, CSFM, CGM
Harold Howard
Paul Zwaska

30 Years

- Joined in 1983

Mark Hodnick

Brian Petonic
James Watson, Ph.D.

29 Years

- Joined in 1984
None

28 Years

- Joined in 1985
George Rokosh
John Souter
Randy Stoneberg
George Trivett, CSFM

27 Years

- Joined in 1986
Tom Burns
Steve Cockerham
Eugene Mayer

Oscar Miles
Michael Sexton, CPRP

26 Years

- Joined in 1987
Frank Bowyer
Rich Ericsson
Ken Mrock
Greg Petry
Peter Van Landuyt

25 Years

- Joined in 1988
John Anderson
Timothy Burke
Jim Frelich
Leo Goertz
Gil Landry, Ph.D.
Ted Thorn

Congratulations!

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

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

Meet the challenge of coaches and mowing heights



BY DR. DAVID MINNER

Professor, Iowa State University

Questions?

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

Or, send your
question to
Grady Miller at
North Carolina State University,
Box 7620, Raleigh, NC
27695-7620, or email
grady_miller@ncsu.edu.

Our game soccer field is a Kentucky bluegrass/rye mix. We regularly topdress our native clay soil with sand and the field was originally constructed on very productive farm land. The competitive soccer season is August through November and April through May. During the non-competitive season, the hot days of north-west Ohio, there is very little action on the field and we are looking for a recommendation on grass mowing height. Our coaches prefer to maintain the field at its playing height of 1 inch. Our grounds staff prefers to let the turf grow to 2 1/2. After gathering various opinions about the benefits of higher cutting height on turf during the summer months; shade to the soil, establishing deeper roots, and improving photosynthetic surface what would your expert opinion be on a recommended grass height?

*Jim Elsasser
Associate Athletic Director for Inter-
nal Affairs
Bowling Green State University*

A: Mowing height has been thoroughly researched and the relative differences between tall and short cutting heights are well known, as Jim indicated. Justification for a taller mowing height comes through deeper roots, more plant food making photosynthetic surface area, better ground shading that reduces weed competition and lowers soil temperature and heat stress. A follow-up phone call indicated that in past years they have in fact been raising the off season mowing height to 2 1/2 inches in June and July and then gradually reducing the mowing height back to 1 inch over a 3-week period in August. This process has worked quite well and the coaches have been pleased with field playing quality through the fall soccer season.

The old adage "if it ain't broke don't fix it" fits nicely here and the grounds crew certainly seems to have figured out how to make a premium field when it is show time and the season is on. But in this case they are being asked to see if they can up

their game a bit by making the field game ready even during the off season. I don't try to second guess coaches and if they are taking time to pay attention to the field then that is a good thing from my perspective because if they are giving some thought to the field then it is a good opportunity for you to educate them about your job and managing grass.

Despite some of the stereotypes about coaches, they are intelligent, hardworking, and passionate people that want every advantage to succeed at their job; to win games by maximizing player performance in a safe and attractive setting. Coaches that beat the field into the ground with endless repeated use and no regard for the playing surface only to complain that you are not doing your job of providing adequate turf cover feeds this negative stereotype of coaches.

That's not the case here. The coach wants the field mowed at the game ready mowing height of 1 inch during the off season in June and July. I'm not sure why but let's assume it's a good reason to improve his program. One reason that surprised me at this level of college play is that coaches are always recruiting and they want the facility to look at its best even if it is for the simple reason of spending a few minutes with recruits on the field during the off season. Whatever the reason it is important to communicate exactly what you want and why and then be ready to compromise when common sense prevails.

I happen to think field quality and recruiting is a big deal and that more sports turf managers need to include this as part of their field management awareness plan. A recruit kicking the ball around on a slow 2 1/2-inch field can leave a lasting negative impression that just doesn't get the job done. As sports turf managers we sometimes focus only on the health of the grass and forget to realize that we are part of the team, with the same goals to win, by recruiting the best players possible,

and letting them maximize their talent in a safe and attractive arena.

I sound like a broken record but when we all get on the same page then coaches, sports turf managers, and athletic directors have a better chance of knowing when to compromise. If it is not a big deal to the coach then they should compromise because all the science indicates that taller mowing during the summer is better for the grass. But we also know that if they were forced to play soccer during the summer then the grounds staff would certainly find a way to manage the field at 1 inch during the summer. The athletic director must weigh the importance of expending the resources to keep the field at a 1 inch summer mowing height; more labor, more attention to irrigation, more fungicides, and more risk of losing some grass during the summer or starting the fall season with less than desirable turf.

It's hard to argue against the taller mowing better grass strategy but here is a compromise that could work to everyone's advantage and improve the overall quality and stress tolerance of the grass. Primo is a plant growth regulator that slows vertical leaf growth and reduces mowing frequency so this will cut back on summer mowing labor. More importantly less expenditure on leaf production shifts carbohydrate utilization to improve turf in several areas; denser turf, smaller divots, and more roots. Another bonus is that after growth regulation wears off there is a rebound period of extra growth that can be timed to occur during the playing season to speed recovery from traffic. The net result of using Primo is that it will allow the coach to have a field mowed at one inch during June and July and it will also help the grounds crew reduce the need for mowing while at the same time improve summer stress tolerance of the grass. Usually I find worn-out grass in the middle of high use fields but in this situation I'm seeing middle ground with good grass all the year round. ■



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