



# Outline

- ▣ History and Purpose of CSFM Program
- ▣ Basic qualifications
- ▣ Testing process
- ▣ Test content
- ▣ Staying certified
- ▣ Benefits
- ▣ Future of Certification Program

# History and Purpose

- ▣ STMA started in 1981
  - Dr. Bill Daniel
  - Harry Gill
  - Dick Ericson
  - George Toma
  
- ▣ Combine the science of growing turfgrass and the art of maintaining sports turf to produce safe and aesthetically pleasing playing areas.

# CSFM Program purpose

- ▣ Increase professionalism in the sports turf industry
- ▣ Promote better and safer sports turf areas
- ▣ Establish credentials that signify a specific level of expertise
- ▣ Provide recognition for attaining a level of expertise and performance as professionals in the industry

# CSFM Program purpose...

- ▣ Stimulate and motivate improved performance and increased professionalism
- ▣ Increase opportunities for education and training
- ▣ Strive to be a leader!

# Employer Perspective

- ▣ Required or Preferred
- ▣ Hiring funnel
  - Skill Set
  - Attitude, Outlook, Motivation
  - Leadership
- ▣ Dedicated to profession
  - Value continuing education
  - Good is not good enough
- ▣ Active in Associations
- ▣ Active in Community

# Employer Benefits

- ❑ Committed to doing the work to stay a leader in your field
- ❑ Committed to being a leader and a manager of facilities and people
- ❑ Required to stay current in technology
- ❑ Committed to self improvement for you and your staff
- ❑ Designate a standard measure for defining future employment candidates at your facility

# Program Outline

- ▣ Qualify to sit for the test
  - Combination of education and experience totaling 40 points
- ▣ Pass the 4-part test
- ▣ CEU and ISP process



# Education Points

- ▣ Only count the highest level achieved
- ▣ STMA Approved Education Program
  - Submit for value approval

# Education Points...

- ▣ Associate Degree
  - Non Turf 2pts
  - Turf 8pts
- ▣ Bachelors Degree
  - Non Turf 8pts
  - Turf 16pts
- ▣ Advanced Degree
  - Masters or Doctorate in Turf 24pts

# Experience Points per Year

## 1500hrs/yr required

- ▣ Formalized Internship Program (.1/100 hrs)
- ▣ Sports Turf Crew 2.5 pts
- ▣ Supervisory, Sports Turf 4 pts
- ▣ Sports Turf Manager 6 pts
- ▣ Experience as assistant golf course superintendent 1.5 pts
- ▣ Golf Course Superintendent 3 pts

No more than 50% of total can be earned from golf course experience.

# The Application

- ▣ Complete the formal application
- ▣ Send in a complete and updated resume
- ▣ Secure transcripts and complete the education point worksheet
- ▣ Sign Code of Professional Practice Form
- ▣ Send application fee of \$250/member (\$350/non-member)

# Ready for the test

- ▣ STMA testing fee of \$100
- ▣ Three to four hour process
- ▣ Testing site administration
  - National or state conferences
  - University testing facility
  - Community college proctor
  - Officially recognized testing site

# Preparing for the test

- ▣ STMA CSFM internet page has extensive study resource list

# Written Exam

- ▣ Four separate sections (take one at a time)
- ▣ All questions are multiple choice
- ▣ 80% to pass each section
- ▣ Retake only sections of the test that were failed (\$45 for retakes)
- ▣ Retake sections of the test up to three times in one year
- ▣ Have up to one year to pass the exam

# Test Overview

## ▣ Agronomics

- Basic horticulture calculations
- Basic Soils
- Turfgrasses and their selection
- Turfgrass nutrition
- Water management
- Turfgrass cultural practices



# Test Overview

- ▣ Pest Management – IPM, Cultural, Pesticides
  - Weeds
  - Insects
  - Diseases

# Test Overview

- ▣ Administration
  - Budgeting
  - Communication
  - Supervision / Personnel Management
  - Safety / Compliance / First Aid

# Test Overview

- ▣ Sports Specific Field Management – field design, layout, dimensions, lining / markings, maintenance, playability, aesthetics
  - Baseball / Softball
  - Football
  - Soccer
  - Lacrosse, Field Hockey, Rugby

# Congratulations, Certified Sports Field Manager!

- ▣ Good for three year period
- ▣ Use the title on your business cards, etc
- ▣ \$100 / year for renewal
- ▣ Concentrate on getting CEU and ISP points

# Continuing Education Units (CEU)

- ▣ Need to earn 3 points in the 3 year period
  - Educational conferences
  - Educational programs and training sessions previously approved by review committee
  - Educational programs and training sessions submitted for evaluation to review committee

# Industry Service Points (ISP)

- ▣ Need to accumulate 9 points in 3 year period
  - Sports Related Community Service
  - Write published article for magazine, newsletters
  - Turf Association involvement
  - Speaker on sports turf related topic
  - Hosting an STMA chapter event
  - Provide and monitor a sports turf internship program

# Professional Benefits

- ▣ Preferred CSFM Applicants
- ▣ Sense of accomplishment for the achievement
- ▣ Recognize your commitment to be the best field manager for your facility
- ▣ Recognize your commitment to stay an industry leader
- ▣ Committed to stay motivated and challenged by your profession

# Professional Benefits...

- ▣ Forces involvement at the local and national level of the industry
- ▣ Element of leadership building and mentoring of colleagues
- ▣ Confidence in Yourself
- ▣ Peer Respect
  - Personal
  - Work Environment
  - Chapter Associates



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- ❑ Designate a standard measure for defining future employment candidates at your facility

Strive to be at the highest level of  
your profession!



Any Question's?