



...You're Resource for Safer Sports Fields

Brought to you by the Sports Turf Managers Association and its charitable Foundation, the SAFE Foundation, in partnership with the National Recreation and Parks Association

Sports Field Safety and Maintenance Checklist

Prior to practice or a game, assess the following field characteristics and make the necessary corrections to the statements marked, 'Incorrect' before allowing players on the sports field. If your field is experiencing major problems, including excessive wear, drainage issues, design flaws, etc., contact the STMA at ph. 800-323-3875, or STMAinfo@STMA.org for a referral to a local STMA chapter volunteer in your area for advice.

Playing Surface – All types

Accurate Incorrect/Needs Attn

Maintenance equipment, such as rakes, hoes, etc. have been removed from the sports field.

Litter and unsafe debris have been removed from the football field and player/spectator areas.

If there is an irrigation system, is timed correctly to irrigate an appropriate amount of time prior to play?

Irrigation heads, drainage grates, valve boxes, etc. are below grade with no protrusions on the playing surface.

The field was constructed according to recommended industry specifications.

Comments

Playing Surface – Natural grass

Accurate Incorrect/Needs Attn.

There is at least 75 percent coverage of turfgrass on the field.

There are no bare spots with a hard soil surface exposed.

Soil is well drained with no standing water.

Turfgrass is uniform in color, height and density.

Turfgrass has strong root system, limiting "blow-outs."

There are no weeds with thorns, bristles or burrs.

There are no holes or mounds made by moles, gophers, or other animals.

There are no ruts or trenches caused by equipment use or field wear

There has been communication between the maintenance staff and coach/facility user

Comments

Playing Surface – Synthetic turf

Accurate Incorrect/Needs Attn.

There are no worn areas on the synthetic material

There are no rips or tears on the synthetic material

Seams are secure

The synthetic material is not buckling or bulging

Synthetic fibers are standing upright

There is adequate infill material that is evenly spread

Water is readily available for washing away undesirable fluids

The footwear that is being worn by players is acceptable

Comments

Playing Surface - Baseball/Softball Field

Accurate Incorrect/Needs Attn.

Infield lip, area between skinned area and grass, not too high or too low

Home plate set to proper depth, and area around plate is level

Batter's box area is level, no holes

Pitching mound/area, pitching rubber set to proper depth

Area around mound is level, no holes

Bases are set properly, will not come loose during game play

Infield area (skinned area) is smooth and level

Comments:

Field Markings

Accurate Incorrect/Needs Attn.

Lines are bright.

If multi-use field (example, football Lines are distinguishable from soccer lines)

Lines are correctly marked per the appropriate sport's governing body

Comments:

Goal area and/or Goal Posts

Correct Incorrect/Needs Attn.

Posts are straight and securely anchored

Posts are adequately padded

Concrete is below the surface

Comments:

Out-of-Bounds/Transition Areas

Accurate Incorrect/Needs Attn.

There is a minimum of 25 ft. around the field for players to run safely out-of-bounds

There is a minimum of 50 ft. between fields (if multi-field complex)

All catch basins are adequately covered

The transition area to the track is easily identifiable and level.

Comments:

Fencing (If your field does not have fencing, skip this section)

Correct Incorrect/Needs Attn.

Fences are securely set in the ground

Fence posts are outside of the playing area

There are no concrete footings exposed above ground

Fencing is securely attached to its posts

There are no large gaps in the fencing or between the ground and the fence

Top and bottom tension wires are in place to secure the fence

The wire ends of the fence are not exposed at the top or corners

There are no damaged areas that protrude, are sharp or loose.

Comments

Lighting (If your field does not have lighting, skip this section)

Accurate Incorrect/Needs Attn.

Lighting has been installed and inspected by a trained engineer or technician.

All lights are working.

The light's beam adequately and uniformly covers the field

The lighting foot candles meet industry recommended specifications

Comments

Bleachers/Facility (If your field does not have bleachers/facility, skip this section)

Accurate Incorrect/Needs Attn.

Nuts and bolts are tight and in sufficient number

Guard rails are securely in place

The plank or railing end caps are securely in place

There are no splinters or worn areas (wooden bleachers)

There are no hazardous protrusions or sharp edges

The supply and location of waste cans is adequate

There is appropriate signage notifying players and spectators of rules, appropriate behavior and deficient conditions

There are public telephones or staffed office for emergency situations
Areas under repair are identified and posted appropriately

Comments

General

Accurate Incorrect/Needs Attn

There is a flag or other signaling system to alert players to leave the
field if inclement weather or other danger is imminent

Comments