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