



Experts on the Field, Partners in the Game.

STMA Awards Program Overview

The Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) recognizes that you make personal and professional contributions to our industry and to the organization you serve. Therefore, the STMA distinguishes fields from around the country with the Field of the Year Program. Through our Field of the Year Program we are able to further one main element of our mission: *to advance professionalism in sports field management and safety through awareness programs....*

This year, based on the results of the judging, the following awards may be presented at the **STMA Annual Awards Banquet, Friday, Jan. 19, 2018 in Ft. Worth, Texas:**

- STMA **Baseball** Field of the Year in the Schools and Parks, College and University, and Professional Categories
- STMA **Softball** Field of the Year in the Schools and Parks, College and University Categories
- STMA **Football** Field of the Year in the Schools and Parks, College and University, and Professional Categories
- STMA **Soccer** Field of the Year in the Schools and Parks, College and University, and Professional Categories
- STMA **Sporting Grounds (non-traditional sports-not dual sport field usage)** of the Year in the Schools and Parks, College and University, and Professional Categories

In addition to being featured in *SportsTurf Magazine*, winning fields will also receive:

- A plaque recognizing the field and the Sports Turf Manager
- Complimentary registration to the STMA Conference
- Three nights of lodging, excluding incidentals, at the STMA Conference
- STMA signature apparel for the winning sports turf manager and their crew

All entry materials must be submitted according to the procedures outlined in this document. The awards committee will independently judge the entries. Winners will be notified in November. **If you submit for the Field of the Year, please do not pay for and send in a conference registration fee before you are notified.**

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 15. (If Oct. 15 falls on a weekend, submittals are due the first business day following the weekend).

Questions? Contact STMA Headquarters: Phone: 800.323.3875 or 785-843-2549,
Fax: 785.843.2977, Email: stmainfo@stma.org

Thank you to our Sponsors!



READ THE FOLLOWING BEFORE PROCEEDING

CRITERIA FOR CONSIDERATION

The following criteria must be met to submit for the STMA Field of the Year Awards Program:

1. For the purposes of this program, a “field” constitutes **ONE** natural grass playing surface and all questions are to be answered as such. Failure to do so may result in disqualification. Good faith estimates of usage, budgets, and other information requested is acceptable.
2. To be considered, a field must have had **TWO** full seasons of play (may be concurrent, i.e. football and soccer on the same field in the fall, etc.) However, this program is a full 12 months, Oct.-Sept., and the application should reflect the entire year.
3. The Sports Turf Manager submitting this entry must be a national member of STMA and have been the primary person caring for the field that is being submitted for a **minimum of two years**.
4. All materials must be submitted according to the instructions in this document and in the possession of STMA no later than October 15. Late materials will not be accepted.
5. Please proofread your submittal and take the time necessary to develop a quality entry.

Again, this year all entry materials will be submitted electronically to STMA. All submissions must be made in strict accordance to the procedures outlined in this document and received no later than October 15.

Please proofread your submittal and take the time necessary

to develop a quality entry. All information must be current year and applications submitted in prior years for the same field may be reviewed for comparison. Applicants who submit one field versus several fields are typically more successful in being selected Field of the Year.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICATION

This form is designed to assess ONE FIELD, not a complex. If you are submitting the same field for two different sports, you must submit two applications outlining different budgets, management practices, etc. and pay particular attention to Question 9c.

TIP!

Photo criteria: (All photo criteria must be met)

Photos with informative captions provide the detail necessary for the judges to determine if the criteria have been met.

- Please provide no more than 30 – and no less than 15 – quality, un-retouched photographs.
- Photographs must be presented in Microsoft PowerPoint or other presentation, or slideshow style format (**one PDF document** including all photos is acceptable) for the committee to review.
- Applicants submitting more than 30 photos or submitting photos in a format other than those described above may be heavily penalized or disqualified at the discretion of the STMA Awards Committee.
- Each photo on a montage within one slide counts towards the 30 total photos.
- Videos are not accepted.
- The photos **must be dated, taken throughout all seasons of the year, have a brief caption describing each, and should not have been previously submitted** with any prior years' application. **IF** a photo has been previously submitted, please provide an explanation in Q 13, as requested.

TIP!

Suggestions from the Awards Committee:

The committee encourages creative photos, photos that show the versatility of the field, display unique characteristics of the field, and photos that show the unique talents of the crew. Focus on issues specific to your field which tell a story; issues such as drainage, traffic, weather, etc. Provide before and after shots. Do not simply provide “beauty shots” of your field, as they do not reflect the true struggles and triumphs of you and your crew.

Required photos for all field entries:

- Pictures of the **sidelines and other wear areas**
- Pictures of the **center of the fields** (between the hash marks, center field, etc.)
- Pictures of the field from **behind the goalmouth**, goalposts, or home plate
- Pictures of the **field in use**
- Pictures of **field in all seasons**
- Pictures of **field renovation** or unique issues (if applicable)

Required photos for baseball/softball entries only:

- Pictures of the **dugouts and bullpens**

The STMA PCI® is required to submit for the STMA Field of the Year Awards

- Complete **four** separate PCI worksheets, which you will find as a separate document at STMA.org, Field of the Year Program.
 - **Three** must be conducted in-season of the individual field's primary sport
 - **One** must be conducted in the off season of the individual field's primary sport.
- Transfer the PCI scores, dates and comments to **question 12** in the application.
- Please do **not** include the PCI worksheets with your completed application.

Instructions for submitting materials

- Fill out this document in its entirety
 - Save it as *Field Name_Application* (.doc or PDF)
- Create a Microsoft PowerPoint document of your photos including brief captions and dates on each photo, or place a link to properly captioned photos in Q.13.
 - Save it as *Field Name_Photos* (.ppt, .pptx, or PDF)
- Submit your documents according to above instructions, electronically via any of the methods below:
 - Sending a direct email to stmainfo@stma.org with "STMA Field of the Year Application" as the subject **NOTE: STMA cannot receive documents or folders in excess of 5MB. If your documents are larger than 5MB, please use another option to submit.**
 - YouSendIt, DropBox, FTP or other file-sharing services by emailing a link to the files/folders to stmainfo@stma.org.
 - Flash drive or CD sent via USPS, FedEx, UPS, DHL, or another carrier to:
STMA Field of the Year
805 New Hampshire, Suite E
Lawrence, KS 66044

If you have any questions about the STMA Field of the Year Program, please contact STMA Headquarters. Phone: 800.323.3875 Email: stmainfo@stma.org

Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication to the sports turf industry and good luck!