



SPORTS FIELD

MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION
WHERE THE GAME BEGINS

www.sportsfieldmanagement.org

SAFE

The Foundation for Safer Athletic Fields

Football/Soccer 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, 'No/Needs Attention' before allowing players on the field. If your field is experiencing major problems, including excessive wear, drainage issues, design flaws, etc., contact the SFMA at ph. 800-323-3875, or SFMAinfo@sportsfieldmanagement.org for a referral to a local SFMA chapter volunteer in your area for advice.

Playing Surface – All Types

Yes No/Needs Attn

- Maintenance equipment, such as rakes, hoes, etc. have been removed from the field.
- Litter and unsafe debris have been removed from the field and player/spectator areas.
- Irrigation heads are installed as per manufacturer's recommendations with no protrusions on the playing surface.
- If there is an automatic system, the runtimes for the stations should be scheduled as per game times
- The field was constructed according to recommended industry specifications.

Comments

Playing Surface – Natural Grass

Yes No/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

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Playing Surface – Synthetic Turf

- | Yes | No/Needs Attn | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | There are no worn areas on the synthetic material. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | There are no rips or tears on the synthetic material. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Seams are secure. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The synthetic material is not buckling or bulging. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Synthetic fibers are standing upright. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | There is adequate infill material that is evenly spread. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Water is readily available for washing away undesirable fluids. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The footwear that is being worn by players is acceptable. |

Comments

Field Markings

- | Yes | No/Needs Attn | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | If multi-use field, lines are distinguishable between sports. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Lines are bright. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Lines are correctly marked per the appropriate governing body. |

Comments:

Goals and Goal Post

- | Yes | No/Needs Attn | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Goal posts are straight and securely anchored. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Goals posts are adequately padded. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Concrete for goal posts is below the surface. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | There are not sharp edges, protrusions or fractures on the goal. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Goals are anchored securely. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | All bolts, screws, and connections for the goal are intact and securely tightened. |

Comments:

Out-of-Bounds/Transition Areas

- | Yes | No/Needs Attn | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | There is a minimum of 25 ft. around the field for players to run safely out-of-bounds. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | There is a minimum of 50 ft. between fields (if multi-field complex). |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | All catch basins are adequately covered. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The transition area to the track is easily identifiable and level. |

Comments:

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Fencing

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

- | Yes | No/Needs Attn | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fences are securely set in the ground. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fence posts are outside of the playing area. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | There are no concrete footings exposed above ground. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fencing is securely attached to its posts. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | There are no large gaps in the fencing or between the ground and the fence. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Top and bottom tension wires are in place to secure the fence. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The wire ends of the fence are not exposed at the top or corners. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | There are no damaged areas that protrude, are sharp or loose. |

Comments:

Lighting

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

- | Yes | No/Needs Attn | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Lighting has been installed/inspected by a trained engineer or technician. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | All lights are working. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The light's beam adequately and uniformly covers the field. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The lighting foot candles meet industry recommended specifications. |

Comments:

Bleachers/Facility

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

- | Yes | No/Needs Attn | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Nuts and bolts are tight and in sufficient number. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Guard rails are securely in place. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The plank or railing end caps are securely in place. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | There are no splinters or worn areas (wooden bleachers). |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | There are no hazardous protrusions or sharp edges. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The supply and location of waste cans is adequate. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | There is appropriate signage notifying players and spectators of rules, appropriate behavior and deficient conditions. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | There are public telephones or a staffed office for emergency situations. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Areas under repair are identified and posted appropriately. |

Comments:

General

- | Yes | No/Needs Attn | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | There is a flag or other signaling system to alert players to leave the field if inclement weather or other danger is imminent. |

Comments:.
