

About the SFMA PCI®

History

In 2004, the STMA Board of Directors hired Ackerman PR from Nashville, Tenn. to propose ways in which the association might increase its visibility and market the on-field expertise of the Sports Turf Manager. At that time, Ackermann designed the STMA logo and developed image materials for the association. Another idea the PR firm proposed was to create a metric that could be used on athletic fields, similar to the slope rating of a golf course (i.e., stimpmeter), to assess that field's playability. The STMA Board of Directors put together a group of experts to begin evaluating such a program, and after receiving very positive feedback, the Board created the STMA PCI Task Force.

The STMA PCI Task Force, comprised of six well-respected Sports Turf Managers from around the country and representing different facility types, began the development of the STMA PCI instrument. There were numerous draft editions of the STMA PCI before they recommended a nearly final instrument for testing. That instrument was then sent out to a focus group spanning all STMA membership segments and from all geographic regions of the country. After making some adjustments, the PCI Task Group finalized the STMA PCI Worksheet, and it was then offered to the membership as a "pilot" program for 2008. That pilot resulted in a few modifications to the instrument and the final PCI instrument, which is included this booklet in an example form.

Some of the comments that were made by PCI Task Group members and those who "piloted" the PCI are:

- "It is a great start to something that can be used as a tool for managers to tune their programs, and help as firepower when asking for a better budget."

Peter Lockwood, Head Groundskeeper, Nashville Sounds, Tenn.

- "The worksheet is a good tool for assessing your fields. It forces you to take the blinders off and really look more specifically at your field instead of generally, as I tend to do when conducting a daily inspection."

Scott Pippen, Superintendent of Streets and Parks, Village of Lincolnshire, Ill.

STMA members who used the STMA PCI in its formative stages, either those in the Task Group or those in the Focus Group, stated several reasons that the STMA PCI is a useful tool to them in their current situation. There are primarily three reasons cited:

- "will allow me to go to my administration to justify additional resources"
- "a tool for my media relations department"
- "it will help me to communicate with all the constituent groups involved: parents, coaches, players, administrators, etc."

SFMA PCI Benefits

The SFMA PCI can also be used to help garner publicity and acclaim for your field. In the SFMA PCI Brochure, you will find a media advisory bulleting. This Advisory Bulletin will assist you in conveying the overall performance of your field in a more media friendly format. You may also find it helpful to use the Media Advisory Bulletin when communicating about your field with any external audience.

SFMA is dedicated to making the SFMA PCI a useful tool for the Sports Field Manager. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please note them in the Comments section on Page 4 of the SFMA PCI Worksheet and email them to SFMAInfo@sportsfieldmanagement.org. If you need more immediate assistance, please call SFMA Headquarters at 800.323.3875.

STMA PCI Task Group®

Larry Berry, CSFM

Scott MacVicar

David Schlotthauer

Mike Tarantino

Steve Wightman

Luke Yoder

PCI Instructions and Guidelines

The following guidelines should be followed when filling out the SFMA PCI:

- This worksheet is segmented into four sections: **Resources, Activities, Agronomic Performance of Turf, and Baseball/Softball Specific**. Within each section, select your answer and place the corresponding number in the blank provided. In some instances, the number is a negative (-), so be sure to subtract that number when totaling your score.
 - **To assess a football, soccer, lacrosse, or rugby field**, please fill out the **Resources, Activities, and Agronomic Performance of Turf** sections.
 - **If you are assessing a baseball or softball field**, you will need to fill out the **additional Baseball/Softball Specific** section to get an accurate SFMA PCI.
- When you have completed the worksheet, **add up the numbers and place the total in the box**. Find the corresponding level in the chart. This is your field's Playing Conditions Index or PCI.
- The SFMA PCI is to be filled out for **one field at a specific point in time**. If you manage multiple fields, please fill out a **worksheet for each field**.
- The SFMA PCI should be filled out by the **sports turf manager in charge of the field**. If there is not a designated sports turf manager, the person most familiar with the maintenance practices employed on the specific field should fill out the worksheet.
- SFMA recommends that it be **used at least four times** over the course of a year and may be used weekly, or more frequently, if deemed necessary.
- Fill out the SFMA PCI as **objectively as possible**. Some questions have subjective elements that require an opinion based on your expertise, and you may wish to award a point value that is not listed. However, please adhere to the point system for each question when possible.

The SFMA Playing Conditions Index[®], SFMA PCI[®], and SFMA PCI Media Advisory Bulletin[®] are property of the Sports Field Management Association (SFMA)

To download and print the SFMA PCI in its usable format, please log on to www.sportsfieldmanagement.org.

SFMA PCI[®]

Sports Field Manager Name: _____

Date PCI Performed: _____

Facility Name: _____

Facility Location: _____

Facility Level (check one): Parks and Rec Schools K-12
 College/Univ Professional
 Other

Comments:

This worksheet is an opinion about the playing conditions of the field and is not to be used as an assessment or endorsement of a given field's safety. SFMA does not assume any liability for actions or injuries resulting from play on a field rated with this worksheet.

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Resources

1. **Head turf manager experience** _____
1 = 1-2 years
2 = 3-4 years
3 = 5-6 years
4 = 7-8 years
5 = 8+ years
2. **Head turf manager experience at site** _____
1 = 1 year
3 = 2 years
5 = 3+ years
3. **Total number of fields currently overseen** _____
1 = 16+ fields
2 = 11-15 fields
3 = 6-10 fields
4 = 2-5 fields
5 = 1 field
4. **Head turf manager education (highest level completed)** _____
1 = High school
2 = Attended some college
3 = Non-turf related AA or BS
4 = AA in turf management/agronomy
5 = BS in turf management/agronomy or higher
5. **CSFM designation from SFMA** _____
0 = No
1 = Yes
6. **Weekly man hours dedicated to maintaining field** _____
1 = 0-24 hours
2 = 25-49 hours
3 = 50-74 hours
4 = 75-99 hours
5 = 100+ hours

Activities

7. **Are multiple sports played on this field?** _____
0 = No
-3 = Yes
8. **Last activity type (see Table 1 at end of worksheet)** _____

9. **Time since last activity** _____
1 = less than 24 hours
2 = 2-5 days
3 = 6-9 days
4 = 10-13 days
5 = more than 2 weeks

10. **Activity scheduled to occur (see Table 1 at end of worksheet)** _____

11. **Amount of rainfall on field in last 48 hours** _____
1 = more than 1.5 inches
2 = 1.0-1.4 inches
3 = .5-.9 inches
4 = 0.2-.4 inches
5 = 0.0-.1 inches

Agronomic Performance of Turf

12. **Turfgrass variety suited to activity (consider activity and season)** _____
1 = Unmanageable
3 = Manageable
5 = Ideally suited

13. **Add 3 points if you overseed (0 if you do not)** _____

14. **Root zone quality (consider depth and mass)** _____
1 = less than 1.0"
2 = 1.0-2.0"
3 = 2.1-4.0"
4 = 4.1-6.0"
5 = 6.1"+

15. **Add 1 point if you conduct soil testing annually or more frequently (0 if you do not)** _____

16. **Add 1 point if you conduct nutrient analysis annually or more frequently (0 if you do not)** _____

Add 1 point if the results of your nutrient analysis were ideal (0 if no nutrient analysis or poor results) _____

17. **% Turf worn/bare** _____
1 = More than 40% field is bare soil
2 = 30 - 39%
3 = 20 - 29%
4 = 10 - 19%
5 = 0 - 9%

18. Desirable turfgrass cover of field is currently _____

- 1 = Dormant
- 3 = Overseeded
- 5 = Growing

19. % Diseased _____

- 1 = More than 40% infected
- 2 = 30 - 39%
- 3 = 20 - 29%
- 4 = 10 - 19%
- 5 = 0 - 9%

Severity of disease *Answer only if awarded

1 - 4 points on question 19* _____

- 1 = Moderate (red thread, dollar spot, etc.)
- 3 = Severe (pithium, gray leaf spot, etc.)

20. % Infested by insects _____

- 1 = More than 40% infested
- 2 = 30 - 39%
- 3 = 20 - 29%
- 4 = 10 - 19%
- 5 = 0 - 9%

Type of infestation *Answer only if 1 - 4 points awarded on question 20* _____

- 1 = Moderate (cut worm, army worm, etc.)
- 3 = Severe (grubs, mole cricket, etc.)

21. % Infested with weeds _____

- 1 = More than 40% infested
- 2 = 30 - 39%
- 3 = 20 - 29%
- 4 = 10 - 19%
- 5 = 0 - 9%

Type of infestation *Answer only if 1 - 4 points awarded on question 21* _____

- 1 = Moderate (dandelion, etc.)
- 3 = Severe (goose grass, crab grass, etc.)

22. Thatch/Tensile strength _____

- 1 = Little or no thatch, weak tensile strength
- 3 = Excessive thatch, adequate tensile strength
- 5 = Ideal thatch, ideal tensile strength

23. Compaction (Account for aerification, moisture content, etc.) _____

- 1 = Too little compaction
- 3 = Too much compaction
- 5 = Ideal compaction

24. Drainage issues in turfgrass areas _____

- 1 = Devastating water retention, depressions, etc.
- 3 = Inconsistent runoff, non-uniform grade, etc.
- 5 = Excellent runoff, ideal grade, etc

25. Add 3 points if you have a sand-based field (0 if no) _____

26. Irrigation (award 0 points if no irrigation system present) _____

- 1 = Quick coupler/hose only
- 3 = Manual sprinkler system
- 5 = Automated sprinkler system

27. Quality of irrigation system (if applicable) _____

- 1 = Poor
- 3 = Adequate
- 5 = Optimal

28. Add 3 points if you conduct annual water audits (0 if no) _____

29. Mowing frequency _____

- 1 = Less than weekly
- 3 = One to two times per week
- 5 = Three times per week or more

30. Award 2 points if mowing frequency is consistent throughout the year _____

TOTAL 1

TABLE 1 - Activity references[®]

- 5 = P.E. class
- 4.5 = Baseball/ softball
- 4 = Field hockey/ lacrosse
- 3.5 = Camps/ tournaments/ special event - moderate
- 3 = Soccer
- 2.5 = Camps/ tournament/ special event - intensive
- 2 = Football
- 1.5 = Concert/ festival/ band practice
- 1 = Activity during or after precipitation

Football/Soccer/Lacrosse Playing Conditions Index[®]

- 121 – 103 5 - Excellent
- 102 – 85 4 - Above average
- 84 – 67 3 - Average
- 66 – 49 2 - Below average
- 48 or below 1 - Unplayable

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL SPECIFIC

31. Uniformity of playing surface _____

- 1 = Many large rocks (.5" or larger), other hazardous materials, weeds, etc.
- 2 = Many small rocks (.5" or smaller), other hazardous materials, weeds, etc.
- 3 = Few very small rocks, very few if any weeds
- 4 = No weeds, no rocks, but irregular or inconsistent materials
- 5 = Ideal uniformity of material

32. Add 3 points if soil conditioners are used regularly (0 if no) _____

33. Maintenance of mound and home plate areas _____

- 1 = Poor (Severe holes, filled/leveled with existing materials, moisture rarely applied, etc.)
- 3 = Adequate (Some holes, filled with fresh clay when possible, moisture applied when possible, etc.)
- 5 = Expert (Minor or no holes, filled daily with fresh clay, regular moisture, etc.)

34. Grass to skin transitions _____

- 1 = High lip, inhibits drainage, very irregular shape/edging, etc.
- 2 = Noticeable lip, very irregular shape/edging, etc.
- 3 = Minor lip, somewhat irregular shape/edging, etc.
- 4 = No lip, adequate shape/edging, etc.
- 5 = No lip, ideal shape, ideal edging, etc.

35. Infield grading of skinned areas _____

- 1 = Poor grade, devastating water retention, depressions, washout, etc.
- 3 = Inconsistent runoff, non-uniform grade, little or no standing water, etc.
- 5 = Excellent positive runoff, ideal grade, etc.

36. Frequency of moisture on skinned surfaces _____

- 1 = Never
- 3 = Sometimes/sporadically
- 5 = Daily/as needed

37. Add 3 points if field tarped during any rainfall within 24 hours of an event (0 if no) _____

TOTAL 2

TABLE 1 - Activity references[®]

- 5 = P.E. class
- 4.5 = Baseball/ softball
- 4 = Field hockey/ lacrosse
- 3.5 = Camps/ tournaments/ special event - moderate
- 3 = Soccer
- 2.5 = Camps/ tournament/ special event - intensive
- 2 = Football
- 1.5 = Concert/ festival/ band practice
- 1 = Activity during or after precipitation

Baseball/Softball Playing Conditions Index[®]

- | | |
|-------------|-------------------|
| 149 – 127 | 5 - Excellent |
| 126 – 104 | 4 - Above average |
| 103 – 82 | 3 - Average |
| 81 – 60 | 2 - Below average |
| 59 or below | 1 - Unplayable |

TOTAL 1

+ TOTAL 2

= TOTAL