

## Irrigation

Irrigation is an essential part of field construction. While constructing the rootzone, irrigating can assist in settling and leveling a field. Once the rootzone is completed, water is necessary for growth and survival of the turfgrass plants. Installed and portable irrigation systems can both be used on athletic fields. Installed irrigation systems save labor and provide the most even distribution as long



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as they are properly designed. However, not all athletic fields have the luxury of an installed system. Portable systems that must be moved around the field can also be used. These are much more labor intensive and are not as efficient.

Important considerations when installing an irrigation system include placement, size of the head and durability. When designing the location of the system, it is best to keep sprinkler heads in lower traffic areas. For example, a four row system on a football field is a preferred design to keep the sprinkler heads away from the higher traffic area in the middle of the field. For safety purposes, smaller irrigation heads are used most frequently. Durable sprinkler heads are also favored for enduring foot traffic.

For a more in depth look at irrigation systems and efficiency, please visit the irrigation and drainage section of the educational resources.

References: The information for this section was taken from the book [Sports Fields: A Manual for Design, Construction and Maintenance](#) by Jim Pulhalla, Jeff Krans, and Mike Goatley.