

Experts on the Field, Partners in the Game.
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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 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

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, drainage grates, valve boxes, etc. in the field are below grade with no protrusions on the playing surface
- If there is an irrigation system, is it timed correctly to irrigate an appropriate amount of time prior to play?
- 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

- 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

Field Markings

Yes No/Needs Attn

- Lines are distinguishable for each sport. (If multi-use field)
- Lines are bright
- Lines are correctly marked per the appropriate sports governing body

Comments:

Football Fields – Goal Posts

Yes No/Needs Attn

- Posts are straight and securely anchored
- Posts are adequately padded
- Concrete is below the surface

Comments:

Out-of-Bounds/Transition Areas

Yes No/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:

Baseball Fields – Skinned Areas

Yes No/Needs Attn

- The soil surface is not too loose around sliding zones for safe sliding
- The soil has the right amount of firmness for good running traction
- Running paths and sliding zones are level
- Batter's box and home plate areas are in good condition
- The skinned area is level and has been recently dragged

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- The soil is level between the skinned areas and the turfgrass
- The soil, when moist, does not adhere to shoes
- Coach's box is level with the surrounding area
- Coach's box is not too hard
- On-deck or walkway from the dugout is not too hard
- On-deck or walkway from the dugout is free from framing boards and gravel

Comments:

Baseball Fields – Pitcher's Mound

Yes **No/Needs Attn**

- The mound conforms to league requirements
- The mound is not worn
- The platform area behind the rubber is sizeable
- 'Push off' and 'landing' areas are constructed with specialized clay
- 'Push off' and 'landing' areas are level
- There is no soil build-up between the mound and the infield grass

Comments:

Baseball Fields – Bases and Anchoring

Yes **No/Needs Attn**

- The base coverings are not gouged or ripped
- The base framework and hardware is in good condition
- The base ground stake is level with the surface and in its correct alignment
- The base ground stake is firmly secured in its concrete footing
- The base ground stake has been installed according to the manufacturer's requirements
- The bases seat properly and securely
- Concrete footings will not twist out of the ground
- The surface of home plate is level with the surrounding surface
- The surface of home plate is not worn
- The pitcher's rubber is level with the surrounding surface and secured safely into the ground
- The pitcher's rubber is in good condition

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:
