

## **Sports Turf Managers Association: Resources That Help to Achieve Goals for Natural Grass Sports Fields**

***By: Michael Tarantino, CSFM***

[Sports Turf Managers Association](#) (STMA) – the professional association for 2,600 men and women who manage sports fields worldwide – is firmly committed to fulfilling its mission of “advancing professionalism in sports field management and safety through education, awareness programs, and industry development.”

Providing a vast array of training materials for its members online, STMA currently offers 15 areas of professional development for its constituents. The organization also hosts the industry’s preeminent annual conference and trade show featuring the latest advances in information and technology in sports turf management.

As a means of increasing professionalism in the sports turf industry, STMA conducts a professional certification program that requires its candidates to attain a specified amount of experience/education to sit for the exam, and then demonstrate a mastery of subject matter in the areas of Agronomics, Pest Management, Administration, and Sports Specific Field Management to gain the status of Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM).

STMA also promotes the industry through 34 affiliated state chapters that partner with the national headquarters in Lawrence, Kan. The chapters represent more than 5,000 sports turf industry professionals across the United States. STMA believes that all agronomy is local, and the affiliated chapters serve a key role in delivering regional information. Chapters hold many educational events including field days, classroom education and “hands on” educational programming that address relevant, topical issues.

As the organization’s charitable foundation, [The Foundation for Safer Athletic Fields](#) (SAFE), takes STMA’s goals of safe athletic fields to local communities through its mission of “enriching communities through championing safe, sustainable sports and recreation fields for all athletes.” SAFE offers a variety of complimentary information, user guides and instructional videos on safety directed towards parents, volunteers, coaches, etc. – anyone who comes in contact with athletic fields or oversees outdoor sporting events.

There are many benefits to the players, sporting activities and environment in playing sports on properly maintained natural grass fields. However, one point is very clear about managing natural grass fields: someone or some group has to take ownership of the management of the surface. STMA is poised to be the resource that provides all levels of sports field managers the information required to deliver a safe, quality and great looking playing surface.

For more information, visit the [www.STMA.org](http://www.STMA.org).

### **About Michael Tarantino, CSFM**

Michael Tarantino (Poway, Calif.), Director of Maintenance and Operations for the Poway Unified School District, served as the [Sports Turf Manager's Association's](#) Appointed Director At-Large in 2014.

### **About STMA**

STMA is the not-for-profit, professional association for men and women who manage sports fields worldwide. Since 1981, the association and its 34 local chapters have been providing education, information and sharing practical knowledge in the art and science of sports field management. Its more than 2,600 members oversee sports fields and facilities at schools, colleges and universities, parks and recreational facilities, and professional sports stadiums.

## Resource List

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