

RE: Maximum use of grass fields

Kristen Althouse <KAlthouse@stma.org>

Thu 11/5/2020 9:15 AM

To: Alex Elvin <elvin@mvcommission.org>;

📎 4 attachments

HighUseFields_SAFE updated.pdf; Managing Wear and Tear on Athletic Fields.pdf; school_turf_maintenance_schedule-screen.pdf; Sherratt Article Carrying Capacity.pdf;

Hi Alex,
Thank you for your patience with my reply.

I do not have a concrete answer for how much wear or the number of hours of play a field can withstand. It varies greatly depending on the sport being played, athlete size, number of athletes, climate, turfgrass species, rootzone, etc. I have included several resources to help you develop your own plan and make an informed decision about what your fields can handle.

Carrying capacity of an athletic field – Pam Sherratt – see attached pdf
Strategies for Managing Heavily Used Fields – see attached pdf
Managing Wear and Tear on Athletic Fields – see attached pdf
Turf Maintenance Schedule for School IPM Program – See attached pdf
NTEP - The National Turfgrass Evaluation Program evaluates various turfgrass cultivars for their tolerance to traffic. www.ntep.org

Although this was in 2013, Rebecca Auchter presented at our conference about field use and maintenance planning. Her resources may be of interest to you:

[STMA 108 - Athletic Field Use and Maintenance Planning](#)
[Field Use Policy](#)
[Sports Turf Traffic](#)
[Additional References](#)

STMA also has the Playing Conditions Index that can be used to assess the playability of fields. It is available as a digital version that managers can use multiple times to keep records for their fields. The PCI and more information can be found here - https://www.stma.org/knowledge_center/stma-playing-conditions-index-pci/

The STMA website has many resources to assist sports turf managers with daily maintenance and recovery of athletic fields. You can check them out here - <https://www.stma.org/institute/>

I hope these resources help. Please let me know if you need anything else. Thank you!

Kristen Althouse
Education Manager
Sports Turf Managers Association
805 New Hampshire, Suite E
Lawrence, Kansas 66044
P: 800.323.3875
www.STMA.org
"Experts on the Field, Partners in the Game."

From: Alex Elvin <elvin@mvcommission.org>
Sent: Monday, November 02, 2020 7:18 PM
To: Kristen Althouse <KAlthouse@stma.org>
Cc: Whitney Webber <WWebber@stma.org>
Subject: Maximum use of grass fields

Hi Kristen,

I'm a planner at the Martha's Vineyard Commission, which is reviewing a proposal to install new athletic fields at the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School in Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts. The developer of the project has stated that the STMA recommends a maximum of 680-820 hours of use per year on natural grass fields, but I haven't been able to find any STMA materials that contain that info. Could you send me a link or document confirming the STMA recommendation, and what sort of uses it refers to (games, practice, phys ed, etc.)?

Thanks,

Alex

Alex Elvin
Development of Regional Impact (DRI) Coordinator
Martha's Vineyard Commission

The Olde Stone Building
33 New York Avenue
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557
(413) 884-3289