

SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

SAFE FIELDS AND EVENT AREAS

Keeping athletic fields and outdoor areas safe and well-maintained is essential. Thoroughly inspect your fields to confirm they are in good condition before the students return and all the special activities begin. When getting the fields ready, consider the following:



- ❖ Train facility personnel to conduct field inspections regularly, identify unsafe conditions promptly and take corrective action.
- ❖ Inspect fields before events, especially when visitors are expected.
- ❖ Remind coaches and staff to report unsafe field conditions.
- ❖ Monitor walking surfaces for hazards like holes, water pooling, mud, roots, pests, and debris; use visible markers if immediate correction isn't possible.
- ❖ Confirm that lighting is operational. Program the lighting to activate during relevant times of the year and remain on for a designated period after evening events. Remember to illuminate parking lots and pathways to and from the events.
- ❖ Use signage to direct visitors to entrances, restrooms, and key campus areas.

- ❖ Check gates and fences to ensure they are open or closed/locked based on the field activity schedule.

Maintaining the Fields

- ❖ Implement preventative treatments for pests. Pests, such as gophers, can create hazards. If you see small mounds, notify your facilities department immediately.
- ❖ When landscaping, avoid mowing or hedging if people are nearby to prevent accidents from objects thrown by the mower blade.
- ❖ Maintain clear visibility around the field by trimming overgrown vegetation that could obscure hazards or provide hiding places.
- ❖ Ensure sprinklers are adjusted to prevent overwatering and pooling water that can create slip hazards.

Maintaining the Field Equipment

- ❖ Assign someone to check the condition of fixed sports equipment such as nets, goals, and posts before each game.
- ❖ Check the condition of bleachers and benches to ensure that they are safe for use and do not have sharp or protruding objects exposed.
- ❖ Ensure emergency equipment is easily accessible such as fire extinguishers, first aid kits, and Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs).

Resources

[Facility Safety Checklist Template](#)

Please contact your ASCIP Risk Services Consultant or our Risk Services team at RM_Info@ascip.org for questions or to discuss further.

Helping to keep our member's employees safe! This Safety Spotlight brought to you by: