



## ***MAINTAINING YOUR SYNTHETIC TURF installed BY FIELDS INC.***

Synthetic turf athletic fields, installed by FIELDS INC, are state of the art synthetic turf playing fields. Turf colors, pile height and infill will vary depending upon the application and the customer needs. All seams of your field have been welded using Synlok Adhesives with seam tape.

The athletic field infill is a combination of round to subangular sand, and a carefully selected crumb rubber infill material compatible with your drainage system. Depending upon the application, athletic fields have a sand and rubber infill level to within ½” of the top of the turf fiber.

Procedures for care and maintenance of synthetic turf fields differ from the standard practices of conventional grass fields. Proper care will significantly improve the aging, usefulness and aesthetics of your synthetic turf installed by FIELDS. Personnel trained and knowledgeable with the specific materials of the installed system, and familiar with the equipment used for field maintenance applications should perform maintenance.

A lack of maintenance will lead to discomfort and frustration for players and may cause faster movement of the ball, uneven roll of the ball, variable bounce of the ball, uneven running surface and poor grip. The following are day-to-day guidelines FIELDS recommends be followed to maximize the life of your new state-of-the-art synthetic turf football and baseball fields. Failure to adhere to these standard procedures will greatly decrease the life of your turf and potentially void your warranty.

### ***KEYS TO PERSERVING YOUR SYNTHETIC TURF SYSTEM***

- ❖ Keep it clean;
- ❖ Groom the field frequently including magnet sweeping for metal objects;
- ❖ Control access to the field;
- ❖ Keep adjacent areas free of grass, food, soil, petroleum products and litter;
- ❖ Post signs prohibiting smoking, tobacco products, soft drinks, sports drinks, chewing gum, and food;
- ❖ Limit motorized vehicles to small carts such as golf carts;
- ❖ Repair damages immediately;
- ❖ Use proper footwear – DO NOT USE STEEL CLEATS





## *CLEANING*

- ❖ Dust, pollen and airborne pollutants will naturally collect on the synthetic turf playing fields. Rain is the best cleaner, but during extended periods of drought, an occasional flushing with potable water is beneficial to clean the turf.
- ❖ Airborne pollutants such as leaves, and insects such as crickets and grasshoppers, and other debris should be removed weekly. If not removed, they will migrate into the system, forming a drainage inhibition within the surface, which can greatly reduce drainage effectiveness. A lightweight turf sweeper specifically designed for synthetic turf can be used for removing the surface debris. Such equipment must be well maintained and carefully operated to avoid contamination or physical damage to the surface.

Set sweeper brushes to the proper elevation to avoid removing the rubber and sand infill. Monitor the brush setting at every pass. If the settings are too low, and the brushes dig into the turf pile or backing, irreversible damage can occur to the turf. Limit use of the sweeper to the coolest temperatures of the day; avoid extreme heat.

- ❖ Daily litter removal is good practice, but is essential after a spectator event, or user event regardless of regulated play or scheduled practice. Keep access routes onto the fields free of soils, grass clippings, and landscape mulches. It is highly recommended to coordinate drinks for athletes in an area off of the synthetic turf, and institute a tobacco free environment.
- ❖ Storing or parking equipment and vehicles on the synthetic turf should not be permitted, especially during periods of high temperatures. Most motorized vehicles should not be permitted onto the playing fields and they should never be allowed to idle for long periods of time as melting or burning of the turf can occur.

Vehicles should circulate at slow speeds, avoid jackrabbit starts and avoid slamming the brakes or abrupt stops. Turning should be done in a wide radius. The vehicle should turn its wheels only when in motion.

- ❖ Petroleum products such as lubricating grease, gasoline, diesel, hydraulic fluids, transmission fluids and engine oils should never be allowed on the turf. Permanent damage including discoloring may occur from these types of products.
  - ❖ If ant infestation becomes apparent, typically appearing at the edges, curbing, and/or in existing cracks, we suggest that a powder application of Orthene (by Ortho) be immediately applied. A comparable type of insecticide may be as effective.
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## *STAIN REMOVAL*

- ❖ Turf fibers tend not to absorb moisture; therefore, most spots that appear to be stains are residues that must be removed immediately prior to drying or hardening. Most water borne residues such as fruit juices, coffee, ketchup, chocolate, cola, latex paint, food coloring, ice cream, and watercolors can be easily removed with a solution of hot (not boiling) water and a household detergent. Brush the area with a stiff bathroom cleaning brush, scrape material, scrub with soap and water, rinse with fresh potable water, and dry with an absorbent towel if necessary.
- ❖ Removal of chewing gum can be simplified by making the gum brittle with an aerosol freezing material. Scrape to remove the residue.
- ❖ Body fluids and animal waste such as blood, feces, urine, and vomit will require immediate attention. Use a wet/dry vacuum to remove and dispose of the rubber/sand affected by the fluid. Saturate the area with an over the counter hydrogen peroxide then flush with clean water. Install new rubber/sand infill to the proper level.

## *FIELD USE*

- ❖ Permanent lines require no special attention other than checking how secure they are affixed. Such a check, as a minimum, should also be made at every grooming session. Any breakdown of the seams at lines or in the main turf areas should be immediately remedied in order to avoid ongoing deterioration and to help prevent tripping hazards.
- ❖ Your synthetic turf system is supplied with permanently inlaid play lines. If additional lines are required for special events or changes in the sports being played, these can be painted onto the surface using proprietary or recommended paints. Some of these are more effective than others and consultation with the paint manufacturer is essential. Permanent, semi-permanent, or temporary effects can be determined ahead of time.

Key points to remember is that paint should be applied lightly and evenly to reduce buildup. Light applications give good aesthetics and adequate life but are less abrasive the heavy layers of paint. Use a top quality latex paint specifically for synthetic turf. Select a paint remover when selecting paint. Test paint and removal in an inconspicuous location prior to painting lines. Suggested turf temperatures for painting is 65 degrees to 85 degrees Fahrenheit. Consult with the paint manufacturer for application rates and cure time.

For logos and decoration, always use a template or straight edge. Discourage double coverage such as a red logo with white borders; do not paint a solid white letter then paint a smaller red letter on top. Double coverage's are difficult to remove. FIELD'S does not recommend painting with brushes or rollers.



- ❖ Snow and ice are not harmful and can be permitted to melt. If it is urgent to remove the snow in order to allow play, brushes may be used. If the area to be cleared is a full field size, logistics of transporting and disposing of snow may prove prohibitive. It is not advisable to use mechanical snow removal equipment. Lightweight equipment should be used, avoid jackrabbit starts, avoid spinning wheels, and sweep the snow rather than pushing it; avoid accumulating a massive mound of snow that requires higher torque from equipment and heavier stress on the turf.

If using a blade for removing wet heavy snow, use a rubber blade and keep it more than 2” above the surface of the turf. Avoid digging the blade into the surface. Metal blades should not be allowed. Use only pneumatic tires. Do not use snow chains or lugged tires. Turning should be done in a wide radius to avoid sharp turns. The vehicle should turn its wheels only when in motion. All vehicles should circulate at slow speeds.

Do not use a tarp on the field during freezing rain. Tarps can be difficult to remove and make it difficult to remove for a scheduled event.

Do not use desalting products or salt. These materials can be harmful to athletes and permanently damage the turf.

- ❖ Suitable footwear should always be used. Most shoe manufacturers manufacture footwear specifically designed for the sport played. Most long pile systems are designed to take a normal soccer stud. **DO NOT USE STEEL CLEATS**

### *GROOMING OR BRUSHING*

- ❖ It is important that the synthetic turf pile is maintained vertically. Regular brushing is an important function that must not be overlooked or neglected. The surface should be brushed in a number of directions, alternating the direction in consecutive activities. Most maintenance equipment utilizes a brush or brushing action. It is critical that the type of brush used does not abuse the condition of the surface.

The main effect of brushing is to level the infill to ensure the uniformity of the surface. A second important reason for brushing a synthetic field is to prevent pile lean and pile flattening. Synthetic fibers have a tendency to lean in a particular direction or flatten with use. To overcome this, regular brushing in all directions will help to keep the fibers upright and non-directional.

The high-wear areas will require additional attention, as these zones will obviously have the most disrupted infill and pile flattening due to the intensity of the play. It is most effective to brush the surface when it is dry.





- ❖ FIELDS recommends brushing at least once per week during heavy use and once per month in the off-season. New fields should be brushed at least two times per month for the first sixteen weeks after installation.
- ❖ Monthly: Check infill levels, seams, inlaid lines, etc., and repair failures immediately. Also check for over compaction and de-compact as may be necessary. It is essential that the appropriate equipment be used in order to achieve the specified performance criteria.
- ❖ Periodically: At least once a year a full grooming session should take place brushing (rotating unit), vacuuming, de-compacting, and grooming (static brush). Top dress with new infill may be required.

#### *RECORD KEEPING*

A log of all maintenance operations carried out after acceptance of the field should be maintained by the field/grounds manager in order to facilitate the analysis of any irregularities. It is important that each and every maintenance operation, no matter how minor, be recorded in the log.

- ❖ NOTE: These are minimum recommendations. Common sense and careful observation should prevail. If any serious doubt exists about the effectiveness of the maintenance regime or the condition of the field, contact FIELDS.
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