

SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

SAFE FIELDS AND EVENT AREAS

As we prepare for another active school year, it is crucial to ensure our sports fields and outdoor areas are safe and well-maintained. 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.