



Environmental Facility Certification Program

Congratulations on joining the ranks of sports field management professionals who are validating their environmental stewardship! Sports field managers have long been known within the turfgrass industry as dedicated to field and facility management practices that minimize impacts on the environment. Now, as a participant in this program, you can create and provide documentation of your stewardship for presentation to the outside world, including your employer and local community.

Overview

This electronic evaluation tool is designed for use in assessing the environmental management practices for a complex of natural grass sports fields and facilities. It can also be used to provide strategic suggestions on how to improve upon current environmental operations in use at fields and facilities. However, for some members, it may be more practical and within their control to assess a natural grass field or recreation space individually. SFMA will award certification to a single field in this case. SFMA defines a complex of sports fields and/or facilities as being contained by fencing or some sort of perimeter boundary with the fields contiguous within this space.

Although there is a \$100 initial fee for this program, you will not be charged to participate, and have your results reviewed. If your results meet the criteria to qualify, you will then be assessed the fee, and have the opportunity to receive your facility's preferred recognition through a plaque or banner, and your facility will have use of the special certification logo. SFMA will also issue a press release promoting your certification. Certification is valid for three years. At the conclusion of three years, in order to remain certified, the process will need to be repeated, and the \$100 fee will again be charged.

Assessment Ratings

The Part I of the assessment captures information specific to your facility. Please be as detailed as necessary to provide a solid overview of your facility and any environmental challenges you manage.

Part II is divided into 10 sections. Please read each statement carefully in each section and place a checkmark in the box provided that most closely describes your progress in meeting that objective. Choices are: *Yes*, *No*, *Addressing*, and *N/A*. If the criteria do not apply to you and N/A is selected, you must include the reason **why** it does not apply to your facility.

Yes - meets the requirement, as described.

Addressing - is making progress in carrying out the requirement, as described, but it is not fully implemented.

No - no practice is in place at the sports facility/field.

N/A - does not apply to the facility/field due to a specific reason. This must be documented in the *N/A Rationale* section under each practice.

To Qualify for Certification

Facilities/fields applying for environmental certification must achieve an 80% complying/YES answers in each of the 10 sections. The Composting section will not be counted. Composting is a very important practice, however it may not be applicable to all facilities. If it is not applicable to your facility, please include the reason 'why' in the rationale.

One very important component of this certification process is to have another person validate your responses by doing a walk-through of your facility.

You are free to choose your attester as long as he/she is not employed at your facility, and he/she meets one of the following requirements:

- An SFMA certified member (CSFM). The CSFM will receive Industry Service Points toward recertification.
- An academic or extension agent; or.

If you cannot find someone to be the attester, please contact SFMA headquarters at ph. 800-323-3875.

The Process

1. Fill out your Environmental Facility Certification Report Card Parts I & II electronically and submit as one document when you are finished. (Paper forms will not be accepted).
2. SFMA will send you a copy of your answers in two PDFs.
3. Forward Part I PDF to your attester and direct him/her to download the Attester Form from *Sportsfieldmanagement.org*, *Knowledge Center Tab*, *Environmental Stewardship*, to an electronic device, such as a smart phone, tablet or laptop computer.
4. Schedule a day and time with your attester to walk through your complex/field covering the 10 areas outlined in the Report Card. He/she will electronically fill out the attester form during the walk-through. Good dialogue between the applicant and attester is encouraged so that there is complete understanding of the rating given for each environmental practice.
5. When the walk-through is completed, the Attester will electronically submit the form.
6. SFMA will notify you within two weeks of the status of certification.

Renewal Process

The certification is valid for a three-year period. At that time the Report Card and attesting process will need to be repeated. The same fee applies.