

**SFMA Founders Awards Criteria**

**The Dick Ericson Award**

The award is to be issued annually to someone who plans and executes the sports field

management of their facility, who effectively leads their team to accomplish their goals in field

maintenance, and who positively impacts the sports field industry.

**Nominees must meet the following criteria:**

* Member of SFMA
* At least five years of service in a sports field-related position
* Job performance and work ethic that consistently meets or exceeds expectations
* Management techniques that make the most of existing resources
* Efficient and effective personnel management
* Constantly improves the management program, introducing creative and innovative ideas to enhance the field management program
* Receptive to ideas and creative skills of staff members and other industry professionals
* Supportive of and works to increase professionalism within the sports field industry.

**George Toma Golden Rake Award**

This award is to be issued annually to someone who is on that quest to reach their goals.

The George Toma Golden Rake Awards acknowledges the superior performance of a sports field management member in “on the job” activities and in community service.

**Nominees must meet the following criteria:**

* Member of SFMA
* At least two years of service in a sports field-related position
* Job performance that consistently meets or exceeds expectations
* Work ethic that consistently meets or exceeds expectations
* Offers ideas and brings creative skills to the department in a professional manner
* Assists in additional non-job-related sports events and activities for the community
* Is a believer in the “and then some” tradition of work ethic.

**Dr. William H. Daniel Award**

To honor all that he achieved, the Dr. William H. Daniel Award (formerly the Excellence in

Research Award) recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions to the sports

field industry through his or her research, teaching or extension outreach. (Nominees must meet criteria in one or more of the following areas):

**Criteria in Research area:**

* Member of SFMA
* Conducted research relevant to the sports field industry
* Research enhanced the understanding of the sports field industry, has practical implications, and was published in a professional journal.

**Criteria in Teaching area:**

* Member of SFMA
* Developed and/or executed teaching programs relevant to the sports turf industry
* Teaching programs enhance the understanding of the sports field industry, provide technical background and/or practical training, and expose outstanding individuals to the sports field industry.

**Criteria in Extension area:**

* Member of SFMA
* Developed and or executed extension programs relevant to the sports field industry
* Extension programs enhance the understanding of the sports field industry, provide technical background and or practical training, and assist in improving quality of sports field areas.

**Harry Gill Memorial Award**

The Harry C. Gill Memorial Award was established to honor an individual for their hard

work in the sports field industry and to acknowledge their dedication to SFMA. Harry

himself became the first recipient of the Award. Traditionally, nominations for the Gill have been made by SFMA members – other than the nominee – to acknowledge an individual for “long-standing service to the SFMA”. The award itself is a rather unique piece of art, depicting a groundskeeper armed with the tools of his trade: a rake of hope; a hose of determination; a shovel of passion; a hoe of dedication; and a smile of spirited uncertainty as he rides off into the unknown atop a horse named desire.

**Criteria for the award**

* SFMA Membership
* Dedication to the improvement of sports field
* Outstanding ability and commitment to the sports field industry
* Professional involvement and service to the SFMA on a local, regional and national level
* Professional leadership in promoting SFMA, its members and the sports field industry
* Contribution of written communications in articles, magazines, manuals, legislation and/or research.