ONTARIO TURFGRASS RESEARCH FOUNDATION

PROVIDING FUTURE GENERATIONS WITH HEALTHY GREEN SPACES TO WORK, LIVE AND PLAY ON.

USAGE GOALS FOR WINNING SPORTS TURF

Gaining additional insights into sports field performance based on permitted hours.

HOW MUCH IS TOO MUCH?

Recent studies have established more accurate recommendations for the maximum number of permitted hours feasible for sports fields before they reach unacceptable playing conditions.

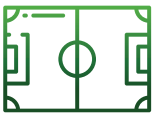
WHY IS THIS RESEARCH IMPORTANT?

It is critical that sports fields perform at an acceptable level for their user groups in order to ensure safety and enjoyment. Additionally, this information helps managers justify permitted hours to decision-makers and various other stakeholders.

WHAT ELSE WAS CONSIDERED?

- Cultural management records for these fields were also considered as this has a significant effect on field pass/fail rating.
- The location of these fields in relation to their parking lots was also considered as these fields often have many hours of unpermitted play usage that is difficult to assess.
- The one fenced-in field had a final failed score; however, it was used for 978 hours — well above the 450 recommended permitted hours. This more accurately reflects the amount of play compared to fields with no fencing, since fields that are not fenced-in often have many hours of unpermitted play which affects field quality and performance.

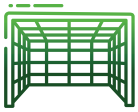
HOW WERE THESE FINDINGS DEVELOPED?



One study looked at 24 different irrigated soccer fields with a variety of sports field classifications within the City of Toronto.

Data was collected on four dates throughout the playing season, to obtain a snapshot of the various conditions throughout the season.

Data was collected from different locations on the fields in order to establish how specific spots performed based on permitted usage and seasonal weather.



The goal was to develop a pass/fail rating system based on specific measurable quality metrics taken from industry standards. These were: % of turfgrass cover, % of bare field, and compaction measurements.

SO, WHAT'S THE GOAL?

It is advised that all stakeholders review these recommendations and consider their own unique situations in regard to justifying their needs.

Sports Turf Canada Field Category	Soil Composition	Sub-Surface Drainage	Irrigation System	Common Field Classification	Recommendations for Permitted Hours per Year	
					PREVIOUS	NEW
1	USGA Specification Sand	Yes	Yes	A	450	450
2	Less than 25% Silt/Clay	Yes	Yes	A	550	425
3	25-35% Silt/ Clay	Yes	Optional	B	450-600	450
4	36-45% Silt/Clay	Yes	Optional	C	450	285
5	Native Soil	No	No	C	200-450	200-400

INTERESTING INFORMATION! WHAT'S THE GAME PLAN?

» All permitted hours of fields should be reviewed with permitting offices as they significantly impact the pass/fail rating of sports fields. Continuing to utilize older recommendations could reduce the likelihood of a field being maintained to a level that is acceptable for its actual usage.

» When considering permitted usage hours, review the location in relation to public accessibility (i.e. parking lots) and ability to reduce non-permitted play (i.e. fences) as this will often have a significant impact to field quality and increase the likelihood of premature fail ratings.

» The cultural management practices of these fields should be an important consideration in determining the number of permitted hours that a specific category of field can withstand. These practices will also take time to complete and may impact the permitted hours of play.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:
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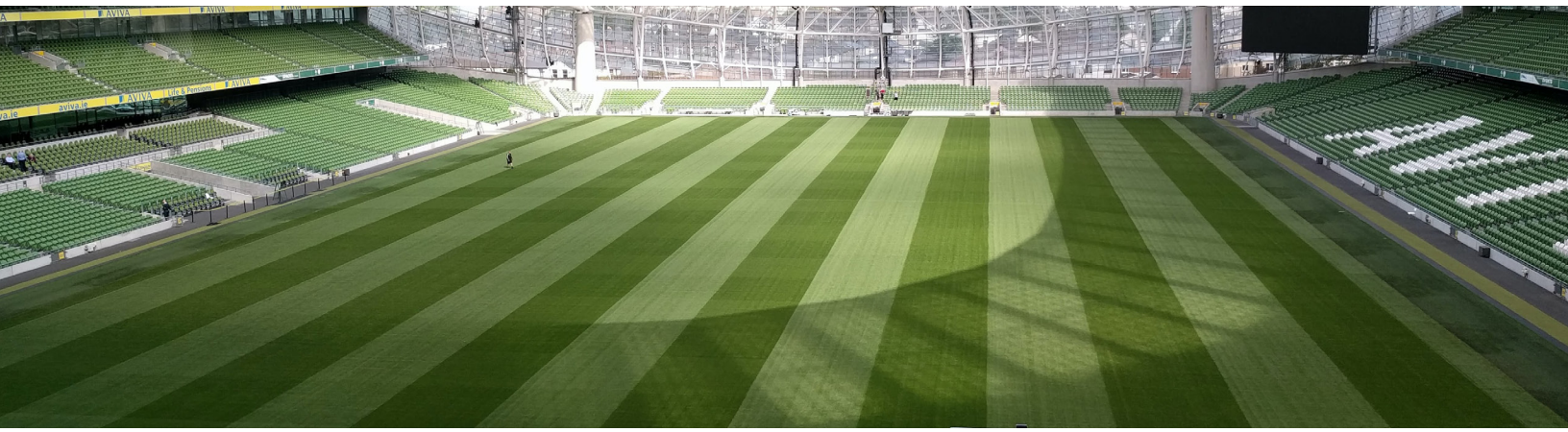

SPECIAL THANKS TO

DCS and Associates dcsturf.com | **The City of Toronto Parks Department** toronto.ca | **Sports Turf Canada** sportsturfcanada.com

The Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation is proud to support sports turf research to improve sustainable management of turfgrass in sports field applications through proceeds from fundraising initiatives, charitable donations, and annual industry contributions.