



STMA Playing Conditions Index (PCI) FAQ

What is the STMA PCI?

The STMA PCI is a tool for the Sports Turf Manager to use to assess the current playing conditions of an athletic field at a given point in time.

Why did the Board decide to implement this program?

In 2004, the STMA board hired Ackerman PR out of Nashville, Tenn. to propose ways which the association might increase its visibility and market the on-field expertise of the Sports Turf Manager. At that time, they designed the current STMA logo and developed new image materials for the association. Another idea Ackerman had was to create a metric that could be used on athletic fields, similar to the slope rating of a golf course, to assess that field's playability. The STMA board put together a group of experts to begin evaluating such a program, and after receiving very positive feedback, the board created the STMA PCI Task Force. Ackerman is still involved with the project and STMA.

How was the tool developed?

The STMA PCI Task Force, comprised of six well-respected Sports Turf Managers from around the country, went through numerous draft editions of the STMA PCI before coming up with an instrument that they believed would serve the membership well. This instrument was then sent out to a focus group spanning all STMA membership segments and from all geographic regions of the country. After making some adjustments, the PCI Task Group came up with the STMA PCI Worksheet Pilot that is currently in use.

How do I use the PCI on my field?

The STMA PCI is currently in a worksheet form that allows the Sports Turf Manager to allot points for each question and then total the points, giving the STMA PCI for that field at that time. There are detailed instructions on the cover sheet of the STMA PCI to help guide you through the process. If you have any questions while filling out the STMA PCI, please contact STMA at 800.323.3875 or PCI@STMA.org.

Why should I use the PCI on my field?

STMA members who have already used the STMA PCI in its formative stages, either those in the Task Group or those in the Focus Group, stated several reasons that the STMA PCI would be a useful tool to them in their current situation. Those reasons ranged from "will allow me to go to my administration to justify additional resources," to "a tool for my media relations department," to "it will help me to communicate with all the constituent groups involved in my field: parents, coaches, players, administrators, etc."

What can STMA members do to contribute?

Use the PCI!!! STMA Members can find the STMA PCI on the Members Only side of www.STMA.org. They can print it out there, fill it out, and provide feedback to PCI@STMA.org or fax their results to 800.366.0391 or 785.843.2977. Members may also request a copy of the STMA PCI by sending an email to PCI@STMA.org. STMA asks that **every time the STMA PCI is used** by a member, the **results and feedback be provided to STMA** so that the association may aggregate the results.