

INFIELD MAINTENANCE

There are two key areas of infield maintenance: Border management and infield care.

Border management

A minimum of a 15cm border should be established between the track base and the edge of the maintained turf. This will prevent grass from growing onto the track surface and allow water to flow off of the surface and have an unobstructed exit path to drainage channels. A water based herbicide such as Roundup should be used to maintain this border. Note: external field events (e.g. Long/Triple Jump and pole vault runways surrounded by grass) should follow the same border management process as the main infield.

Infield care

The following main tasks should be undertaken in a basic infield maintenance plan:

- When mowing, the cutting height must take into consideration the sports activities for which the surface will be used. Prior to a Track and Field competition, the grass should be cut to 1.5cm to 2cm in height.
- All grass cuttings must be removed, ensuring they are not left lying on track surfaces.
- A quantity, quality and time programme of nutrition must be established.
- Local infield damage must be repaired immediately.
- When necessary, the surface must be loosened with special tools and sanded with 0.2mm to 0.4mm particles.
- Leaves, litter and other deposits should be removed.

The pattern for mowing the infield should be as follows: Perpendicular, parallel or diagonal to lines with all turns being made inside of the track such that the mower and mower deck do not cross the base boundary. The turns should be made so that the exit chute from the mower faces away from the track.



To clean up the non-mowed areas adjacent to the track, a perimeter pass should be cut parallel to the track or event surface with the grass exit chute pointed away from the track surface. If required, a second perimeter pass should then be cut. It is best that the grass chute be pointed away from the surface on this pass also to minimise the amount of grass cuttings that are blown onto the track surface.

Any grass clippings which have accumulated on the track surface during the mowing process should be blown off of the surface. Leaving debris on the surface allows for the accumulation of moisture and silt that will clog the pores of the surface and lead to early deterioration.

NOTE: at no time should the mowing equipment use the track surface to make turns between passes. The mower surface should not pass over the track surface during any cutting passes.



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