

FACILITY SAFETY

Facility maintenance should focus first and foremost on safety, and maintenance personnel or the groundskeeper should inspect the facility before each and every usage. When potential risks of injury are identified, they must be rectified before activities are allowed to commence. Having personnel with a responsibility for maintenance is vital in ensuring that inspections, preventive maintenance and repairs are carried out on a regular basis.



To ensure that facilities are well maintained operators should develop and implement a scheduled preventive and reactive strategic maintenance plan for your facility (UKA has developed a [Track Operator Handbook](#) and daily, weekly, monthly and annual facility checklists to support this process). Check lists and details of completed maintenance and repair work should be recorded and securely filed.

Sadly, we live in an age of litigation and if users get injured they are increasingly likely to look to poor maintenance and unsafe facilities as a reason to sue. There are three main areas of potential litigation involving sports facilities:

1. Problems with the initial design and facility construction or installation and any subsequent renovations.
2. Facility usage that differs from the purpose for which the facility was designed.
3. Hazardous maintenance issues and facility conditions resulting from a failure to inspect for, and identify potential problems and rectify them.

When establishing a maintenance plan for an athletics facility, the key is to develop and follow a written plan. Although the format for the inspection of individual facilities can vary, certain basic criteria- will apply for daily, weekly, and seasonal inspections. During an inspection, each inspection item should be dated and documented. Identified problem areas must be rectified and the work dated; detailed records of the repair or maintenance process should be retained. The duties owed to users of track and field athletics facility are as follows:

- Keep the facilities in safe repair
- Inspect to discover hidden hazards
- Remove hazards or warn users
- Conduct operations safely



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