

## TIPS FOR MAINTAINING MULTIPURPOSE ARTIFICIAL GRASS IN SCHOOLS AND PLAY AREAS

The performance, longevity and safety of artificial grass is primarily determined by the amount of maintenance it receives.

### RECOMMENDED MAINTENANCE TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES



*Hard Bristle Broom to brush up the pile in heavily used areas*



*Drag Mat to pick up vegetation and small debris*

Artificial grass in a School environment is aesthetically pleasing and can be used for a wide and diverse range of sport and play activities. However without diligent maintenance the impact of many children in flat soled footwear, particularly in high traffic areas, will result in grass pile quickly flattening and becoming slippery.

Irrespective of the type of usage there are preventative maintenance tasks that can be conducted regularly by school grounds staff.

Industry recommendations are for one hour of maintenance for every 10 hours of play, with further consideration given to type of usage and intensity of play (2019, Sheppard, M, The Smart Guide to Synthetic Sports Surfaces, Vol. 5, p. 27).

We recommend the following maintenance program to keep these areas at peak performance levels.

### RECOMMENDED SCHOOL HOUSEKEEPING

#### TO BE COMPLETED AS OFTEN AS NECESSARY;

- Large trees with overhanging branches should be kept trimmed and keep vegetation such as weeds, leaves & mower clippings off the surface by regularly raking the surface. A vegetation sweeper or drag mat is recommended for this task. There are a number on the market. Never with a blower (Blowers move sand infill around & make it uneven).
- Brush up the pile and re-distribute infill into high wear areas. Tools for this task include; a hard bristle broom or weighted drag broom.
- Remove any rubbish from the area ensuring there are plenty of bins close & they are regularly emptied.
- Keep drainage pits clear.
- Rotate usage to disperse the impact of users across the playground/court area. Consider area/court access points and line marking to enable this dispersion.
- Report any evidence of surface damage or seams lifting.



## ADDITIONAL SERVICES OFFERED BY SPORTS CLEAN



*Using Field Line Marking to disperse player impact*

### DEEP CLEAN FIELD SERVICING

- To be completed 3-4 times per year depending on usage and budgets. Work in partnership with a professional maintenance provider with specialist machines to complete field grooming & deep cleaning to remove debris, dirt & contaminants deeper in the surface and to repair lifting seams.
- This will keep infill levels optimised. In our experience from time to time major infill top ups will be required.
- Occasionally the artificial grass area will need spraying to kill moss and algae growth & disinfect surface.

### ADDITIONAL SERVICES

- Sports Clean provides an initial Basic In-house Maintenance Training Session with school grounds staff as part of our service.
- Sports Clean has capacity for painting lines on synthetic grass to add additional sports lines to maximise usage. Note: lines are not permanent and will require 'topping up' approximately every 6 months.
- Synthetic Grass Repairs. Sports Clean has the capacity to do minor and major synthetic grass repairs for all types of synthetic grass surfaces

### ABOUT US

Sports Clean, established in 1999 was born out of the need to provide a maintenance solution to the explosion of synthetic grass sporting surfaces in Australia. Over time, Sports Clean has continued to improve on the processes and machinery that maximise the life span of a synthetic grass surface.

### CONTACT US TO DISCUSS YOUR SCHOOL'S NEEDS

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