

Find Your Career in Sports Turf Management

Lives lost on NSW roads.
Our goal is zero.





STA NSW is an association dedicated to the development and professionalism of sports turf management.

The Committee of STA NSW is made up of volunteers working within the sports turf industry with dedication and passion to grow a strong industry.

STA NSW runs events to support the education and professional development of sports turf managers at any level of their career. We produce newsletters to keep members up to date with industry news and we are committed to support our members as they need it.

www.sportsturfnsw.com.au



Turf NSW is the representative body for Turf Producers in NSW and has been operating for 40 years.

The role of Turf NSW is to support growers with opportunities of education, networking and advocacy.

www.turfnsw.com.au

Scan the QR to watch a video on a career in Sports Turf Management



Introduction

The Sports Turf Industry provides many different options for a great career path. An exciting industry with ongoing advances in new technology and sciences.

An industry that produces quality sports surfaces for sporting stars from juniors to elite level of professional athletes.

There are many aspects to producing a great sports surface.

It's an industry that supports its colleagues, shares experiences and creates networking opportunities to learn from the best.

The sports turf industry has a great work life balance and is a career path that supports a strong green environmental future for communities.

Combine a love of sports and work, and build a great career.





A Career in Sports Turf Management

Starting a career as a qualified sports turf manager commences with an apprenticeship with a sports turf venue and then attending TAFE to undertake a Certificate 3 in Sports Turf Management.

There are three main TAFE's running this course in NSW and they include Ryde TAFE, Hunter TAFE (Kuri Kurri) and Yallah TAFE.

There is a variety of employers available for apprenticeships, including:

- Local Government
- Golf Courses
- Bowling Greens
- Sports facilities, clubs and Stadiums
- Private Schools
- Turf Maintenance Contractors.
- Turf Production Farms
- Turf Consultants



Sports Turf Industry Positions

Sports Turf Manager

Turf managers are the senior position that oversees the maintenance and management of turf on sporting fields, stadium arenas, bowling greens, racecourse, and other public spaces. They are also responsible for overseeing irrigation systems, pest and disease control, and landscaping, as well as managing staff and reporting to management.

Golf Course Superintendent

This position is the senior manager of the course, overseeing the maintenance and management of turf golf courses including fairways, greens, and tees and course surrounds. They are also be responsible for overseeing irrigation systems, pest and disease control, and landscaping, as well as managing staff and reporting to Club Directors.

Greenkeeper

Greenkeepers are responsible for maintaining playing surfaces on golf courses, public spaces and parks, schools, and sports grounds, bowling greens and racecourses and turf farms. They may also be responsible for maintaining the landscaping.

Groundsman: Involved in a variety of operations and maintenance in parks and turf spaces including sportsfields.





Sports Turf Industry Positions

Irrigation Specialist: Irrigation specialists design, install, and maintain irrigation systems for golf courses, sporting fields, and other public spaces. They may also provide consulting services to help clients improve the efficiency and effectiveness of their irrigation systems.

Horticulturist: Horticulturists specialise in the science of plant cultivation and care. They work to maintain healthy plants, including choosing the right plants for a given environment, soil preparation, planting, and pest control.

Park Manager: Park managers oversee the operations of a park, including staffing, budgeting, and program development. They work to ensure that the park is safe and welcoming for visitors, and may be responsible for managing partnerships with community organisations and other stakeholders.



Sports Turf Industry Positions

Equipment Technician: Equipment technicians service and repair machinery used in turf maintenance, such as mowers, sprayers, and irrigation systems, tractors and specialised machinery.

Precision Agriculture Specialist: Precision agriculture specialists use technology to help sports turf managers optimize their turf. They may use tools such as GPS mapping, remote sensing, and drones to collect data on growth and soil conditions, and provide recommendations on turf management.

Soil Scientist: Soil scientists study the physical, chemical, and biological properties of soils. They investigate soil fertility, erosion, and contamination, and provide recommendations on soil management to improve turf performance and sustainability.

Agronomist: Agronomy is the study of crops and the soils in which they grow. Agronomists help produce crops and sportsfields more efficiently and sustainably, and improve the quality of the turf. They analysis pests and disease to ensure healthy turf surfaces.

Turfgrass Researcher: Turfgrass researchers conduct research on the development and cultivation of turfgrass varieties suitable for Australian conditions. They may work for universities, research institutions, or private companies.





Turf Consultant: Turf consultants work with sports turf managers to help them manage their turf more effectively. They provide advice on turf selection, planting, irrigation, pest control, and fertilizer application. They may also conduct soil tests and provide recommendations on soil management.

Plant Breeder: Plant breeders develop new crop varieties that are more resistant to pests, diseases, and environmental stresses. They may use genetic engineering, cross-breeding, and other techniques to develop new turf varieties.

Agricultural Extension Agent: Agricultural extension agents work for government agencies or universities to provide information and advice to farmers and the public. They may conduct educational programs, provide technical assistance, and develop outreach materials.



Turf Production Industry

The Turf Production industry is where the magic of a sports turf surface begins. Turf farms are located all over NSW with 80% of NSW production coming from the Hawkesbury region, just west of Sydney.

Turf producers grow a variety of turf species for different uses including; parks and recreation areas, sports fields, home lawns and other commercial projects.

There are a variety of positions that cross over the sports turf and turf production industry, but with some differences such as irrigation, which is on a bigger scale than a sports surface and differences in machinery such as harvesters.



Turf Production Positions

Turf production businesses employ a variety of positions, qualified and unqualified:

- Machine operators
- Mechanics
- Drivers
- Turf layers
- General Labourers
- Sales and Marketing
- Administration

In addition they contract agronomists, irrigation specialists and turf consultants.





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Certificate III in Sports Turf Management

Ryde TAFE Yallah TAFE Kurri Kurri TAFE

