



January 9, 2019

Jeffrey K. Sullivan, Ed.D.
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Re: Somerset Elementary School Gmax Report / Temperature Reading

Mr. Sullivan,

I have confirmed with our field technician that the field average during the 10/09/2018 testing was an average of 126 °F. The testing was done with a basic temperature gun and is for information purposes only. There is extreme variability in trying to measure a field temperature outdoors with a temperature gun.

Player safety is paramount to what we do at FieldTurf so I wanted to elaborate on the field temperature discussion and make mention of the attached report by Milone and MacBroom, Inc (MMI) titled "Evaluation of the Environmental Effects of Synthetic Turf Athletic Fields" which examined several key questions including "Does the temperature of the synthetic field become excessively hot in summer months?"

MMI analyzed crumb rubber infilled turf and noted that "Collected data indicated that the air temperature as measured at a distance of two feet above the synthetic turf surface ranged from one to five degrees greater than the observed ambient air temperature, while the temperature at the same height above the natural turf ranged from 3° F lower to 1° F greater than the ambient air temperature. The measured air temperature at a height of five feet above the synthetic turf more closely approximated the ambient air temperature. Measured air temperatures ranged from 2° F lower to 2° F greater than the ambient air temperature."

Additionally, MMI observed that "Maximum temperatures of approximately 156° F were noted when the fields were exposed to direct sunlight for a prolonged period of time. Rapid cooling of the fibers was noted if the sunlight was interrupted or filtered by clouds."

The temperatures taken by our field technician were done at the surface level only (not at the 2' or 5' level) and the report shows full sun with no cloud cover during testing. As a result, the temperature reading is not an indicator of player safety and should not be used in such a fashion. Should MCPS and its constituents have concerns about field temperatures and player safety we would encourage the proper testing to be done which will more than likely mimic the same conclusion as the MMI report showing that there is no concern with human health and safety on any synthetic turf fields.

Regards,

Julie Paquin
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