



4/23/2020

Eric Watkins
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Professor Watkins,

The National Sports Center is interested in learning more about how to ensure that we are able to manage our sports fields in a way that reduces environmental impacts. Our campus is comprised of over 50 athletic fields and hosts over 40,00 athletes in our 5 biggest outdoor soccer tournaments (USA Cup, All-American Cup, NSC Cup, Kick-Off Challenge, and Fall Cup). Last year we completed a field usage analysis on our campus. Fields averaged 512 hours of game play and use by renters. In the months of June and July, field usage totaled 16,470 hours across all 50+ fields (62% of years' field use).

The National Sports Center is a state-owned facility run by a non-profit, The National Sports Center Foundation. Resources are limited and investment into the fields may not meet the needed investment to maintain field quality and safety. The most common complaint from field sports participants is the quality of fields during and after our 16,000+ athlete flagship event, The USA Cup. Our organization is eager to partner with and support any research improving the quality of our fields while better understanding how the real or perceived field quality affects our athletes.

We have two MPH's on staff, Director of Analytics, Jayme Murphy and myself. Jayme's Master's Project studied the incidence rate of concussions during the USA Cup; however, we would like to better understand other types of injury sustained during competition on our campus. For my thesis, I studied the interaction between public health policy and advocacy at the legislature. Collectively, we are excited about partnering with your team to deliver STEM education centered on sustainable management of sports fields and other landscapes.. Your proposed study, Optimizing Youth Sports Fields to Reduce Environmental Impact, would be a great opportunity for our campus, athletes, community; you have our full support.

Thank You,

Executive Director,

Todd Johnson,
National Sports Center