



Philipe Aldahir Director of Turf **Research and** Innovation, Shaw Sports Turf

Philipe Aldahir didn't start out as a synthetic turf expert. In fact, for most of his early career, his expertise was in natural grass, which is often thought of as the opposing team in the sports field industry. But what Aldahir has learned as the director of research and innovation at **Shaw Sports Turf** is that natural grass isn't always the best pick for a high-performing sports field. Here, he explains why turf stands out.

the force reduction

of the surface, and

the sponginess

and squishiness

of the surface. We

don't want players'

bodies to react in

## Ask the **Expert**

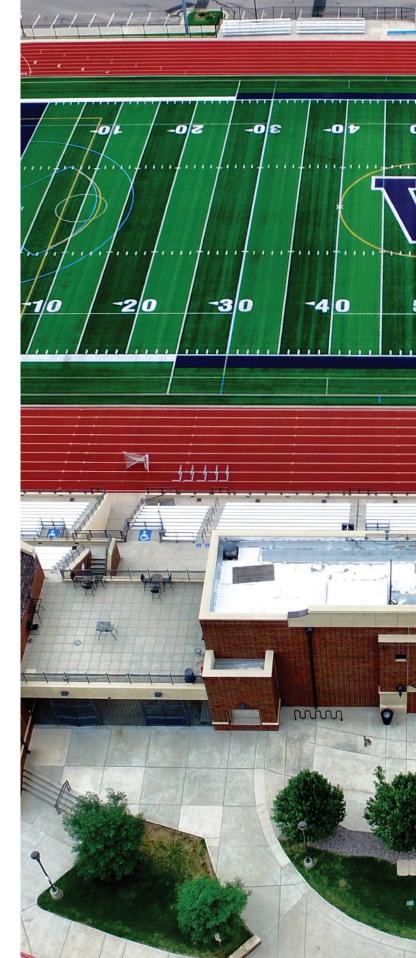
What makes turf the best performing solution for my field? There are three major components to consider when designing any sports field. Number one, it needs to be safe; number two, playable; and number three, aesthetically pleasing. There are many ways that we can achieve that with Shaw Sports Turf systems.

On the safety side, there are a variety of metrics we track. We have one patent-pending ity of the surface,

a different way than they would on a very good natural grass field. We want to make a surface that won't get in the way of playability assessplaying the game. ment that tests the On baseball fields, metrics of the field for example, we and determines look at the ball's how safe and playtrajectory to make able it is. It takes sure those bounces into consideration and hops are true and playable. For impact tests, which are a metric related each system we develop, there is a to concussion, falls, and tackles. Performinimum of seven mance parameters, to eight metrics for performance and such as traction, are also considered safety, but it can in that test. go up to 10 to 13 We look at a metrics depending variety of metrics beyond those two things, like stabil-

on what we want to test. We've also participated in athlete testing and kinesiology studies with major universities to understand and measure how athletes react to the surface. This helps us design surfaces that foster athletic performance. From a design standpoint, turf's capabilities are very broad. Shaw Sports Turf can accommodate

any sport and any team colors. In addition to safety, playability, and aesthetics, artificial turf is an environmentally friendly solution for a project. In terms of water conservation, its benefits can be substantial, and we also offer natural infills made from rapidly renewable resources like coconuts.



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