

Sportsfield Line Marking

INTRODUCTION

Line marking of sportsfields is an activity that regrettably is often carried out poorly and as such results in:

- Playing quality for the User groups during the season is often compromised
- Playing quality for the next season's User groups is typically also compromised
- The damage is extremely difficult, time consuming and expensive to reinstate.

OBJECTIVE

A sportsfield that has been correctly marked out will meet all of the following requirements, namely:

- i. Line markings will be in accordance with the legal requirements for the particular sport.
- ii. Lines (where applicable) will be straight
- iii. Lines will be between 75 and 100mm in width
- iv. Line marking will be completed with approved products
- v. Lines will not compromise playing quality for the next season's User groups.

PROCEDURE

General

1. Line marking will be completed with a specialist turf line marking solution or dilute acrylic paint that is free of anti mould agents such as simazine.

Glyphosate (Roundup) or similar can only be included as part of the marking solution for the first marking out of the sportsfield to start the season. Thereafter for the remainder of the season, only approved paint or marking solution shall be used.

The plant growth regulator Trinexapac – ethyl (Moddus) can be added to the marking solution to provide up to 4 weeks additional length of the lines. This should be added to the marking solution at a rate of 1ml/L of spray mix.

No other herbicide is permitted.

The use of waste oil or diesel oil combinations is not permitted. This is environmentally unacceptable and raises the issue of health concerns to users.

2. In order to both spread the wear and avoid rutting, the location of the lines shall where practical be varied from one season to the next.
3. Line marking shall be completed using either a specialist roller or spray type line marker only.

Line Marking Procedure

Step One	Check the weather. No rain shall occur within at least 12 hours following spraying. The marker solution must thoroughly dry on the leaf to prevent the lines “spreading”.
Step Two	Line marking should only be carried out when the grass is <u>dry</u> .
Step Three	Correctly locate the field markings onto the field.
Step Four	Stretch out a string line to ensure the lines are straight.
Step Five	Optional Using a pedestrian rotary mower and catcher cut the line marking areas down to a height <u>of not less than 20mm</u> . Clippings must be removed from the site by the person completing the line marking.
Step Six	Use the string line to apply the line marking solution in a straight line.

Notes:

1. *When moving the line marker, lift the marking roller off the ground at all times.*
2. *If clippings build up on the line marking rollers, they must be removed from the site to prevent patches of turf being killed.*
3. *Do not dispose of the marking solution anywhere on the council facility. Transfer surplus material to a bucket and remove from site.*
4. *Do not wash out the line marking roller on the council facility.*
5. *As many clubs throughout New Zealand are responsible for marking out their own fields and using a variety methods there is the option of introducing user chargers. Unless the user groups carry out the line marking to the procedure above the council would perform the work at a cost to the user groups.*

If you have any further enquiries relating to this fact sheet, contact your local NZSTI agronomist, or NZSTI Head Office.

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