



## A-Turf System Comparison Sheet

### Fiber Type:

**FieldTurf:** Extruded Polyethylene Blended Fiber

**A-Turf:** Extruded Polyethylene Blended Fiber

### Fiber Manufacturer:

**FieldTurf:** TenCate Thiolon

**A-Turf:** TenCate Thiolon

### Fiber Properties:

**FieldTurf:** 120 Micron Thick Spine with 95 Micron Thick Wings

**A-Turf:** 310 Micron Thick Spine with 130 Micron Thick Wings\*

\*Much thicker and improved design by TenCate Thiolon.

### Fiber Denier:

**FieldTurf:** 9,000

**A-Turf:** 10,800\*

\*A result of the thick design.

### Fiber Weight\*:

**FieldTurf:** 36 ounces per square yard (33 ounces for FT Classic)

**A-Turf:** 45 ounces per square yard (A-Turf Mono-RS and Premier-RS systems)

\*This is the most important component to a turf system. Infill and the other components play a roll, but make no mistake that the type and amount of fiber installed will have the biggest impact on longevity. This system will likely get an extra two years on the greater fiber content alone. It is not ideal to have sparse grass blades and loose visible dirt on a natural grass field and the same should apply for synthetic turf if natural grass in its finest condition is the model.

### Pile Height\*:

**FieldTurf:** 2.5"

**A-Turf:** 2.25" recommended (2' to 2.5" available)

\*Please remember that what you pay for is the face weight per square yard. The pile height is just a setting on the tufting machine in the factory. We can provide a 2.5" pile height if desired by the owner.

### **Turf Primary Backing:**

**FieldTurf:** Double layer polypropylene.

**A-Turf:** Triple layer polyester and polypropylene with a fiber fleece.\*

\*The addition of polyester makes a backing far stronger from a cross dimensional strength standpoint than polypropylene alone. This reduces the chance of wrinkles and rips during the installation process.

### **Secondary Coating:**

**FieldTurf:** 14 ounces of urethane per square yard.

**A-Turf:** 20 ounces of urethane per square yard.

### **Total Turf Carpet Weight:**

**FieldTurf:** 58 ounces per square yard.

**A-Turf:** 73 ounces per square yard.

### **Tufting Gauge (space between rows of fiber):**

**FieldTurf:** 3/4"

**A-Turf:** 3/8"\*

\*A-Turf has twice as many rows of fibers than our competitor's system. This is especially important as it relates to visible infill and infill movement or "fly out". Sometimes our competitor will make an argument that this is better because 3/4" is roughly the size of a cleat and therefore you get better cleat penetration. This would mean that an athlete would have to run keeping his cleats perfectly in-between the rows of fibers.

### **Weight of Infill:**

**FieldTurf:** 9 lbs per square foot consisting of 3 lbs of rubber and 6 lbs of sand per square foot to achieve an infill height of 1.75"

**A-Turf:** 6 lbs per square foot consisting of 3 lbs of rubber and 3 lbs of sand per square foot to achieve and infill height of 1.75"

\*Both systems are filled up to the same infill height of 1.75". Our competitor must include additional infill weight because of all of the void space between their fiber rows. It is important to note that the cost to add significantly more fiber to our A-Turf systems is far more expensive then adding few pounds of extra sand in a less plush system. The additional fiber will add longevity, the sand will not.

### **Rubber Type**

**FieldTurf:** SBR Rubber (recycled car tires)

**A-Turf:** SBR Rubber (recycled car tires)

\*Cryogenically processed rubber means it is frozen and broken apart and ambient processed rubber means it was broken apart at room temperature. This has been extensively looked at by rubber experts and determined that there is no measurable performance difference in field applications. SBR rubber is SBR rubber. What is important however, is how clean the rubber being used is. Our corporate group is the largest processor of recycled rubber in North America and also makes its own rubber for many products. We know rubber and rubber quality as well as anyone.

### **Carpet Permeability:**

**FieldTurf:** Scraped non perforated backing / 20 inches per hour

**A-Turf:** Perforated on 4 inch centers / 20 inches per hour

\*In my opinion both drainage systems are fine, however, any argument that a scraped backing is superior in drainage to a whole punched backing has no basis. Far more fields have experienced drainage issues with scraped drainage backings when compared to perforated systems. Perforated systems have been the standard for turf drainage in Europe and the United States for over 20 years.

### **Shock Attenuation (G-Max)\*:**

**FieldTurf:** <135 at installation and < than 200 for life of system

**A-Turf:** <125 at installation and < than 165 for life of system

\*The lower the number the safer when it comes to G-Max. 200 is the ASTM level when a field is considered unsafe for play. The disproportionate amount of sand to rubber in the FieldTurf system leads to additional compaction over the years and hence a higher G-max level. A-Turfs balance proportion of rubber and sand in combination with a significantly higher amount of fiber leads to G-max levels that are much safer and more closely match natural grass in its finest condition.

### **Seaming Methods:**

**FieldTurf:** Sewn Seams

**A-Turf:** Sewn Seams

### **Game Marking Inlays:**

**FieldTurf:** Sheared and Hot Melt

**A-Turf:** Sheared and Hot Melt or Cut out and glued

\*Please note that A-Turf has expertise in both methods. It's a matter of preference. Sheared inlays double up the backing so the inlays stick up about a quarter inch high than the surrounding turf. Traditional inlays are cutout of the turf backing so they are level. We will discuss both options and give the district the choice when the time is appropriate.

### **Warranty:**

**FieldTurf:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Insured Warranty.

**A-Turf:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Insured Warranty with no deductible and no limit on hours of use.

\*Please note that A-Turf's 3<sup>rd</sup> party coverage is significantly better when the total aggregate of each policy is divided by the total number of fields cover during the policy year. It is also important to note that A-Turf has the strongest financials in the turf industry. This is even more important to consider when looking at the long term viability and ability to service your field throughout its life. A-Turf is willing to submit our actual 3<sup>rd</sup> party policy for review by the district upon request. Most others will not offer to submit their policies for review.

**Please review the attached “Deciphering Fact from Fiction” to help clearly illustrate many of the differences and comparisons made above.**

*The intention of this comparison laid out above is by no means to imply that FieldTurf has a bad product. It is however, intended to demonstrate that perception is not always reality. We bid a much higher quality system by comparison at a better price. The quality level of the system we bid would be a much greater value to the college if it was priced the same or more, the fact that we bid it at lower delivers that much more value to the owner.*