

Sports Complex



Field construction under way



Native sand mixed with 15 percent Profile® Porous Ceramic (PPC) Greens Grade™



Completed fields

Situation

Forty minutes away from Mobile, Alabama – one of the rainiest cities in the U.S. – the town of Foley elected to use natural grass instead of artificial turf to build a multimillion-dollar, 16-field sports complex designed to attract outdoor tournaments and tourism. The decision would provide a better playing surface, minimize risk for injury, and avoid the cost of synthetic turf, but project designers needed to ensure that the area's heavy rainfall would not cause excessive interruptions in gameplay due to saturated fields.

The project manager recommended a sand cap utilizing 15% Profile® Porous Ceramics (PPC) Greens Grade™ – the same root zone design he had used for 20 years in golf courses and sports fields around the world because of PPC's ability to increase infiltration rate by 20 to 25 percent, increase the water- and air-holding capacity to further manage moisture levels, and provide the nutrient uptake needed for the grass to grow and withstand heavy traffic.

Challenge

- Keep fields playable despite yearly rainfall that is 62% above the national average
- Ensure rapid drainage during and after a rain event
- Protect the town's investment in the sports complex

Solution & Application

- Top Alabama's signature red clay-based soil with a 10-inch layer of sand mixed with 15 percent Profile® Porous Ceramic (PPC) Greens Grade™
- Use low-cost native sand available near the construction site, eliminating the expense of processed sand that would be required with other inorganic soil amendments
- 75 to 80 tons of PPC per field

Results

With drainage accelerated by Profile Porous Ceramic (PPC) Greens Grade, the fields can go from wet to near-dry in record time. Infiltration rates range from 11.75 to 23 inches per hour, reducing rain-related interruptions that would jeopardize the financial success of the sports tourism complex.

Shortly after opening, the area was pummeled with 2 inches of rain in one hour in the morning but the games proceeded as planned in the afternoon. If oversaturation plagues your fields during rain events, it's time to call Profile Products to find out how our solutions can help you get your games in.

For help on your next project site, contact Profile® Sales Support at 800-508-8681 or

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