

Regarding the LoVerde Center Field

We take the safety of all of our participants very seriously.

In choosing a surface for the LoVerde Center, the Board evaluated several surfaces. The field that we selected has a strong safety record, no demonstrated health risks and better performance.

With respect to the impact of the chemical components of the turf, the science has not established a connection between playing on the turf and cancer or other illnesses. A study by the US EPA study says: "Limited studies have not shown an elevated health risk from playing on fields with tire crumb."

A recent study by the New York State Department of Health states: "Our review of the available information on crumb rubber and crumb rubber infilled turf fields indicates that ingestion, dermal or inhalation exposures to chemicals in or released from crumb rubber do not pose a significant public health concern.

https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/outdoors/synthetic_turf/crumb-rubber_infilled/fact_sheet.htm

Washington State reached the same conclusion last year: "the currently available research on the health effects of artificial turf does not suggest that artificial turf presents a significant public health risk. Washington State Department of Health recommends that people who enjoy soccer continue to play regardless of the type of field surface."

This research has been consistent over the past few decades in which these fields have been used.

There have been 296 fields installed since 1999 in the Chicago area using crumb rubber. As recent as 2017 Northwestern University installed an indoor field using crumb rubber.

We are confident about the safety of our field. We are happy that it will minimize injuries, and that it will provide a year-round setting for many happy athletic experiences.