FROM THE CHAIR

The ASBA Ball is in Motion

The ASBA “ball is in motion” with strong momentum coming off of recent meetings at the Technical Meeting in Scottsdale; the Winter Meeting in the Dominican Republic and the Regional Meeting in Atlanta. With record or near record attendance at all three events, I think it’s fair to say that we’re providing educational and networking opportunities of interest to our members. DETAILS

MEETINGS

Thinking About the Technical Meeting Already? Great Idea!

Staff and volunteers are hard at work crafting the best meeting of the year, the ASBA Technical Meeting. The 2019 version will be held from December 6-10, at the Rosen Shingle Creek resort in Orlando, Florida.

The Technical Meeting includes some of the best opportunities of the year, including the following…

- Excellent technical sessions: More than 30 of them, in fact, arranged in programming tracks for those interested in tennis, track, field, court and rec – and even business management – content.
- The chance to be in the presence of the largest group of industry members anywhere – last year’s meeting topped out at close to 700 in attendance.
- A chance to take certification exams. (Weren’t you meaning to do that?)
- A look at the latest and greatest products and services in the trade show – which last year included more than 60 exhibitors.
- The chance to network with colleagues, co-workers and more.
- The chance to attend Division Meetings, Certification Breakfast, committee meetings – and the chance to become involved with the Association on a more
meaningful basis.  

- ASBA’s golf, tennis and pickleball tournaments.

Want to learn more? Mark your calendar now and keep an eye on this newsletter for more information coming soon! For information call 866-501-ASBA (2722) or www.sportsbuilders.org.

Winter Meeting 2019: Mission Accomplished!

The 2019 ASBA Winter Meeting always has the stated goal of bringing together committed members of the industry to advance the work of the Association. As the meeting, held February 22-24, 2019 in the Dominican Republic, wrapped up, it was evident the mission was accomplished.

All divisions – tennis, track, fields, courts and rec and indoor – held meetings to suggest topics for the program of the 2019 Technical Meeting, which will be held in December in Orlando, Florida (more on that can be found in this issue). In addition to fleshing out this program, divisions were able to discuss interests common to builders and suppliers in those categories. They also came up ideas for position papers, which will be found on the website.

The meeting provided a great opportunity for participants to come home refreshed and ready to face a new season. After sessions let out for the day, attendees were free to explore the host resort, the Paradisus Palma Real, including its beaches, pools, restaurants and night spots. Many also enjoyed local tennis and golf, as well as fishing and sightseeing.

If you missed out on this meeting, don’t feel bad – the next will be held February 21-23, 2020, in Costa Rica. The Los Suenos Marriott Ocean & Golf Resort will be the host property. More information will be released as that meeting comes closer.

ASBA's Regional Meeting: A Resounding Success

When ASBA hosted its first Regional Meeting three years ago, we weren’t sure what to expect. Would industry members attend? Would they like it? Would they return?

Fast-forward three years and it’s easy to see the answer is a resounding YES on all fronts. And the most recent Regional Meeting, held in Atlanta, Georgia, on March 6 and 7, is a prime example.

The meeting included a chance to take the Certification exam as well as to catch up on some excellent industry programming, targeted specifically to builders who wanted to work smarter, stay current on new industry technologies and connect with others to discuss common issues.

The DoubleTree Hotel hosted the meeting which turned out to be the largest Regional Meeting to date, with 107 participants. In addition to receptions that allowed industry members to connect and share ideas, sessions presented included “Jobsite and Project Planning” and “Crew Management,” as well as presentations on SunTrust Field’s AirPat System, Rome Tennis Center and Berry College Track.

Off premise tours of SunTrust Field, Mercedez Benz Stadium, Rome Tennis Center and Berry College Track, led by ASBA builder members, provided up close views of sports construction.

If you missed this Regional Meeting, it’s obvious you missed a lot. Mark your calendar for the next one: March 4-5, 2020, in Baltimore, Maryland. See you in Charm City!

Why Attend an ASBA Regional Meeting?

Call for Nominations for ASBA Board Positions
The ASBA is currently accepting nominations through June 15, 2019 for positions coming open on its Board of Directors. These nominations will be submitted to the Nominations and Elections Committee to ensure that nominees are qualified under the bylaws. A ballot will be developed for submission to the membership in late summer with the election, and any run-off ballots completed prior to the Technical Meeting. New officers and directors will assume their positions at the conclusion of the Technical Meeting in December. DETAILS

Where in the World is ASBA?

As part of our continuing effort to promote ASBA as an industry resource in sports construction issues, following are some of the upcoming events at which ASBA will have a presence:

MAY

Track/Fields Meetings with NCAA & Governing Bodies
ASBA's Track and Fields Divisions, led by Paul Nagle, Troy Rudolph, Kristoff Eldridge, Mark Heinlein, Jim Catella, Megan Buczynski and Executive Director Fred Stringfellow will be meeting with representatives of NCAA, NFHS and NIAAA on May 2nd in Indianapolis, IN. This annual “track” and “fields” event is intended to strengthen communications between ASBA's builder and designer members, and the organizations who set the rules for our sports.

JULY

International Tennis Federation
Tennis Division President Matt Strom and Executive Director Fred Stringfellow will be attending the ITF Surfaces Foundation Board meeting in London, UK on July 4th.

July Board/Awards & Strategic Planning Meeting
The ASBA Board of Directors, awards judges and the ASBA staff will be meeting in Denver, CO on July 12th & 13th for the annual summer Board meeting and awards judging.

ASBA Raises Awareness Through Cue Career

In 2018, ASBA partnered with Cue Career to help bring a greater awareness of the sports construction industry to students all over the world. Cue Career provides the resources for students to explore careers by watching video interviews of people who work in the industry. By working with many associations across the world, the organization also provides opportunities for workforce development such as internships, apprenticeships, mentorships, and more.

According to the Cue Career website, the mission is to provide students with an easy and effective way to access information about careers and professional development opportunities. Cue Career provides a platform where students can interact directly with professionals in the industry and with association members. The program will always be free for students and schools. The goal is to prepare young people for the workforce. Cue Career was designed to give all students a single access point where they can broaden their knowledge and understanding of ANY career they are interested in. Webinars are recorded for future playback where students interview the professional over web conferencing software. Professionals are asked questions about their industry, how they got involved and what the day to day work is like in their job.

To date, ASBA has coordinated two member interviews – one with a builder and one with a design professional. Both described their role in the sports construction industry and within their company as employees and as ASBA members. More videos like this are being planned.
According to ASBA Executive Director, Fred Stringfellow, “We were excited to find the Cue Career site as a platform to highlight sports construction and design as a career choice for young people contemplating life choices. Through ASBA member interviews, visitors to Cue Career can hear about what an average day “on the job” might be like, how our members got into this field, etc. In this tight labor market, anything ASBA can do to make prospective employees aware of the sports construction field the greater the pool of talent.” Part of ASBA’s Education Strategic Goals is to provide outreach and create a broader awareness of the association. Working with Cue Career helps ASBA reach that goal and attract young talent to the sports construction industry.

A link to the ASBA Cue Career videos can be found on the ASBA home page located at www.sportsbuilders.org. If you are looking for interns or would like to mentor a young adult to help them better prepare for a career in the sports construction industry, please contact Kaylee Derby, Director of Education, ASBA at KDerby@stringfellowgroup.net.

Sponsorship: Commit to the Industry and WIN the Visibility Game

Have you been thinking about becoming more involved with ASBA and showing your support of the industry and all its work – but are you worried about committing to an investment of time? There are plenty of ways to support the industry and one is by becoming a sponsor of ASBA. The 2019 Sponsorship Packages, now available to members, come in a variety of price points and offer multiple benefits!

In return for investing as a sponsor, you’ll raise the visibility of your company for an entire year. You can showcase your products or services to builders, professionals and other members of the tennis court, running track, court and recreational, field and indoor sports flooring industries through multiple venues and events.

While sponsorship used to encompass only the Technical Meeting, ASBA has broadened the opportunities to give member companies benefits all year long. Now, sponsorship is more valuable, more far-reaching and offers better visibility for you and your company than ever before.

And just as a quick note -- for those who want a full-year investment, ASBA offers Complete Sponsorship Packages. A one-time investment at the price point of your choosing allows your company’s name to appear all year long. For example, at the Technical Meeting, you’ll receive:

- A 10’ x 10’ booth space
- Complimentary registration
- Recognition as a sponsor
- Your company’s name on signage and more.

You’ll also enjoy increased visibility through website and online advertising, a display advertisement in our Membership Directory, and your membership dues for the 2020 membership year will be paid.

Need some extra incentive? Act soon and you’ll have your company’s name included in the pre-publicity materials for the Technical Meeting. Start the membership year off right with your name in the conference brochure and show your support for the ASBA!

Want to learn more? Go to ASBA’s website and look for the “Sponsorship Opportunities” button on the lower right-hand corner of the home page.

As always, it’s first-come, first-served (sponsorship levels have priority) — the earlier you apply, the more likely you are to have the space of your choice. Space is awarded according to the date your form and payment are received back here at ASBA headquarters. Sorry, no phone reservations can be accepted.

If you have any questions, please call Cynthia at ASBA, 866-501-ASBA (2722) or e-mail cynthia@sportsbuilders.org.

ON THE BOOKSHELF
What Else is On the Bookshelf?
ASBA's technical publications, including popular and well-regarded Construction and Maintenance Manual series, are constantly being updated. We invite you to make sure you have the most updated issues.  

Certification: Make it Your Goal This Year

If you promised yourself that this was the year you’d pursue your CTCB, CFB or CTB certification, it’s time to start putting those wheels in motion.

All the information on certification is available on ASBA's website, under the tab for “Certification” at the top of ASBA’s home page, www.sportsbuilders.org. Note that you must fill out all forms in advance in order to sit for the test. The deadline for application is 30 days prior to each test.

You can take the exam by appointment at ASBA Headquarters in Maryland; simply work with the staff to find a convenient time. You can also take it at the 2019 ASBA Technical Meeting, as follows:

December 7, 2019
Orlando, Florida

A specific time for the exam will be listed as the date is closer.

INDUSTRY NEWS

USTA Facility Assistance Program Increases Opportunities

Tennis providers and developers will have more opportunities to construct, expand and renovate tennis courts in their community with the introduction of new facility funding guidelines for 2019.

The USTA Facility Assistance program caters to a range of providers and community tennis organizations, from those looking to repair cracked courts at their local park to those dreaming of building a state-of-the-art, multi-court facility.

Racquet & Paddle Sports Show

The Racquet & Paddle Sports show is a 4 day experience designed to bring racquet sport professionals and industry leaders together for a unique future-focused B2B event to learn what’s new and next. Co-located with the PGA Merchandise Show, general managers, key decision makers of facility operations, buyers and more will gather in Orlando to discover the latest trends and innovations in equipment, technology, court surface/construction and maintenance as well as apparel, accessories and footwear from leading and emerging brands—all in one place, all at one time.

MEMBER NEWS

Memberline

The latest news from ASBA members.

ASBA Welcomes New Members

ASBA welcomes 10 members that joined the association since we published our last newsletter.

ASBA Announces New Certified Builders
ASBA has certified seven new builders since we published our last newsletter. [DETAILS]

ASBA Mobile App Available on iTunes, Google

ASBA now has its own mobile app (ASBA Diagram Showcase), available through the iTunes and Google stores, free of charge. The app contains a sampling of technical diagrams from our construction and maintenance manuals – including Tennis, Running Tracks, Sports Fields, Courts & Recreation and Pickleball.

The app is intended to be a resource when you’re on a job or in the field and need to reference a dimension or specification. It is not intended to be as comprehensive as our manuals – but rather, complementary to them.

Check out our app and send us your thoughts. We’d love to hear what you think.

[Click here for Google]
[Click here for iTunes]

Click on image below for larger version to see details.

ASBA's Position Papers: We Need Your Expertise!

And the nominees are … your project, if you decide to enter ASBA's awards program. This year’s program is now accepting entries, meaning it’s time for you to nominate that project you want recognized. [DETAILS]

Got Your Certification? Help Keep it up by Writing Technical Articles for Newsline

ASBA offers its Certified Builders two options for keeping their designation current. The first is the option to take the exam again. The second, however, includes an opportunity to benefit the industry itself: recertification by acquiring continuing education points. This includes writing technical articles for Newsline. [DETAILS]

ASBA Certificate of Distinction Program: Are You Aware of It?
ASBA currently offers two Certificates of Distinction, one for Design Professionals and one for Supplier Companies.

Both differ from certification in that they do not require members to pass a test, nor are they a credential that is awarded. However, they do recognize commitment and dedication to the Association and the industry.

The Design Professional Certificate of Distinction program provides professionals a distinction by illustrating the individual’s commitment and dedication to the tennis, track, fields and indoor facility construction industry through involvement with ASBA and related organizations and the completion of built projects.

The Supplier Certificate of Distinction program is designed to recognize those ASBA Supplier Division Member Companies that contribute to and share in the betterment of the ASBA. ASBA Supplier Division Member Companies that meet and/or exceed the participation goals and requirements will receive this recognition, which must be renewed on an annual basis and ASBA Supplier Division Member Companies must meet the minimum total qualifying point requirement every year to maintain their recognition.

To learn more about each Certificate of Distinction program, go to www.sportsbuilders.org.

May We Quote You?

One strong benefit of ASBA membership is the fact that ASBA is recognized as a technical leader in the industry. Want proof? Articles written on behalf of ASBA, and quoting ASBA members, are everywhere. Just as an example, you’ll find ASBA's articles in the following publications:

- Tennis Industry
- PTR Tennis Pro
- Sports Turf
- Sportsfield Management
- Athletic Management
- U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Magazine, Techniques

In addition, ASBA has been contacted by other publications, including Athletic Business, when writers and editors are seeking an industry expert.

ASBA being recognized as an industry expert is outstanding, since that great reputation extends to our members as well. In addition, members’ participation in these articles can heighten their profile.

Want to see what ASBA has been up to? Head on over to the website, www.sportsbuilders.org, and click on the tab on the top that says “Press Room.” A drop-down menu will offer multiple choices including options such as Track Articles, Tennis Articles, Fields Articles and Indoor Articles. Click on the ones you want to view.

Want to be quoted in these articles in the future? Drop ASBA's technical writer, Mary Helen Sprecher, a line at mhsprecher@gmail.com (note new address) and ask to be added to the list. Include any specific expertise you have, such as tennis, track, fields or indoor facilities.

Get Social with ASBA

ASBA continues its journey into social media. You can find us…

On Facebook: Just look up our page under (what else?) American Sports Builders Association. Like the page in order to get all the updates.

On Twitter: ASBA’s Twitter handle is @SportsBuilders – make sure you follow ASBA in order to get the latest on upcoming meetings, deadlines, new programs, publications and more.

On LinkedIn: ASBA has a group, listed under American Sports Builders Association.

Be sure you’re following us in all the social media you use.