

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEADING THE WAY IN SPORTS & PLAY

5 - 6 SEPTEMBER 2024 MANTRA ON SALT BEACH



Laykold[®] Now serving Padel.

With all the existing benefits of Laykold, plus great new Padel court features.

Available from



ARRIVAL TEA & COFFEE, REGISTRATION 8.30 - 9.00

9.00 WELCOME TO THE 2024 SAPIA NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Craig Willis renowned as the 'Voice of the AFL' and past announcer for the Australian Tennis Open, is our entertaining Master of Ceremonies.

9.05 WELCOME TO THE TWEED

Mish Lockington — Industry Engagement Manager, The Tweed Tourism Co. The Tweed is a place where sparkling seaside villages, full of the best in food, coffee and surf breaks, give way along wide rivers with ancient stories to embrace country towns full of art, farms and friendly welcomes.

9.15 TENNIS: DRIVING NEW PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH COMPLEMENTARY FORMATS

Michael Blomer — Head of Facilities & General Manager, Tennis Queensland Court Tech Lisa Caruana — Complementary Formats & Local Government Lead, Tennis Queensland

> Michael and Lisa from SAPIA Affiliate Member Tennis Queensland Court Tech will be bringing us up to date with the emerging complementary forms of tennis and the opportunities this is providing for tennis and our venues.

9.50 NETBALL QUEENSLAND INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

Teale Blessington — Head of Government Relations and Infrastructure, Netball Queensland

Teale helps to strengthen, co-ordinate and direct government and stakeholder relations activity for netball in Queensland. She also contributes at strategic and practical levels in maximising netball participation across Queensland by planning and delivering the infrastructure and facilities needed to support community and high-performance and ensure netball remains the leading team sport, particularly for women and girls. She will share the exciting things they have been working on, including the refreshed NQ Infrastructure Strategy.

10.10 LAYKOLD PADEL COURTS

Neil McIntosh — National Sales Manager, APT Asia Pacific

Padel is new and expanding rapidly. APT Asia Pacific, SAPIA's Conference Gold Sponsor, now offers Laykold Padel Courts which are certified to Australian and German standards, and customers have strong local market support from APT in Melbourne.

10.30 - 11.00MORNING TEA AND EXPO VIEWING IN MANTRA FOYER

11.00 CRAFTSMANSHIP IN SYNTHETIC TURF

Joe Wadkins – Ask JW

JW is our keynote speaker and an Honorary Member of SAPIA. He is a global authority in the synthetic turf industry. Renowned for his groundbreaking contributions, JW will share his deep insights on the seamless fusion of psychology and expert craftsmanship within the synthetic turf industry. This unique perspective is poised to redefine best practices and spark new innovations. Joe's expertise is in high demand worldwide, spanning consultancy, design, training, and installation services across a diverse range of applications, including landscape projects, football, soccer, baseball, golf greens, pet facilities, rooftops, bocce courts, playgrounds, tennis, and the rapidly growing sport of pickleball.









2.00 INNOVATION SECTOR—COLD CURE ACRYLIC COATINGS

Geoff Walsh – National Product Manager for Sports Surfacing, Mapei Australia Geoff has been in the sports surfacing industry since 1996, initially in R&D with Rebound Ace at the Brisbane AV Syntec Laboratory. When California Sports Surfaces purchased Rebound, Geoff moved into project work, overseeing the promotion and installation of sports surfaces for Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games, African Games, South East Asian Games, ITF, WTA as well as numerous Tennis Centres, Resorts and Schools etc. Geoff joined Mapei Australia in 2019 where he continues to strive to bring new, innovative products to the market.



2.20 ADHESIVES FOR SYNTHETIC GRASS INSTALLATIONS

Murray Dagley - Managing Director, Chemical Technology



Murray began working at Beta Chemicals in 1979 when it was part of Pacific Dunlop. He founded Chemical Technology with his father in 1991 and has been managing the business ever since, producing a range of speciality adhesives. Murray will explain the basics of choosing and applying adhesives in relation to the synthetic grass sector. Large sporting fields are the artificial turf installers' opportunity to play a starring role. There's high revenue and high profit potential but also high risk of financial loss if the installation requires re-work or replacement. Quality materials are essential to a great outcome.

2.40 HOW GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS & ISSUES ARE CHANGING THE NARRATIVE FOR SPORTS SURFACES LOCALLY

Martin Sheppard – Director, Smart Connection Consultancy

Global challenges on the environment, safety perceptions around PFAS, impact concerns on environmental footprint, ongoing negative narratives on PAH's, heat, circular economy, and injuries. The European Union, International Sports Federations, and industry leaders have started to look at standards to offset these challenges and concerns. How can Australia "Change the Narrative" with these good practices in our local settings?



3.00 RECYCLING SYNTHETIC GRASS

Trent Cummings – Director, Re4orm Recycling



Trent's great-grandfather was credited with being the first Indigenous Australian to play in the Victorian Football League. Trent followed in his footsteps and played multiple seasons for Fitzroy and the West Coast Eagles. Following a career in the corporate sector, Trent has spent the last 5 years researching and building Australia's first synthetic turf recycling facility RE4ORM, which became operational in April 2024.

3.20 DECIPHERING THE NEW FIFA QUALITY PROGRAMMES

Grant Humphreys - Director, AcoustoScan and PlayTest

Grant will explain the new FIFA test Method, with more Quality Programmes coming for Soccer, Football Turf, Natural Playing Surfaces, Futsal Surfaces, Footballs, Football Goals, Flood Lighting, Technologies. What's new from Australian Standards committees CS101 and CS005 including gym flooring and giant slides.



3.40 – 4.00 AFTERNOON TEA AND EXPO VIEWING IN MANTRA FOYER

4.00 PANEL: LEARN ABOUT PLAYGROUND FALL SURFACES

Joe Wadkins – Moderator



Our panel of our playground surfacing specialists, moderated by Joe Wadkins, will discuss surface materials being used in the market today for playgrounds and how to get longevity along with safe HIC numbers. Learn about: Head Injury Criterion | Use & Fall Zones | Critical Fall Height | DDA Requirements | Shock Underlayments | Exterior Containment | Maintenance

CONFERENCE CLOSE - SEE YOU IN 2025!











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