

Spartan®

Rekortan®

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GUIDELINES FOR THE
**CARE AND
MAINTENANCE**
OF YOUR ATHLETICS TRACK

Care and Maintenance of Polytan STI Athletics Surfaces

Introduction

Maintenance of your synthetic Polytan STI athletic track surface is essential to ensure quality performance for athletes, minimisation of potential for injury and long term durability.

It is important to understand that an appropriate, disciplined maintenance regime must be established and performed to ensure the track is kept in top condition.

This manual is aimed at assisting you to get the maximum value from your athletics surface. You will achieve the expected performance and longevity by following the simple rules below:

- ✓ Keep it clean.
- ✓ Don't allow any unsuitable regular or one-off activity to damage the surface (such as driving heavy vehicles across the surface unsupervised, leaving excessive loads on the track for extended periods, allowing athletes to undertake inappropriate activity or utilise unsuitable equipment).
- ✓ Any damage should be assessed and repaired at the earliest possible opportunity.
- ✓ Call Polytan STI first if any uncertainty exists on a planned or proposed activity that might raise cause for concern.

We expect that many of the commonly asked questions will be answered in this manual.

Should you require further information, please contact our head office for assistance.

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!Attention!

This manual is intended for use by personnel responsible for regular upkeep of the track. Be sure to present a copy to all appropriate people.

Spike Rules

Polytan STI only permit **'Pyramid'** or **'Christmas Tree'** spikes (also called *compression tiered spikes*) to be used on the track for athletic activity.

These spikes will provide ideal performance for athletes on your Rekortan® or Spartan® surface. They are designed to compress the surface rather than dig in, providing energy restitution to the athlete, especially for sprinting events and result in less damage to the track surface due to the flatter profile and therefore lower point load than other spike options.



!Attention!

NOTE: 'Needle' or 'Pin' spikes are strictly not allowed and usage of these spikes will affect your warranty.

Maximum length spikes are essential to performance and track longevity.

- | | |
|---|----------------|
|  Running activity | maximum of 7mm |
|  Throw and Jump activity | maximum of 9mm |

Supervision and attention of activity at start locations is strongly recommended to ensure minimisation of damage from starting blocks.

Due to the variety of systems specific recommendations are not possible other than spikes should be of the above nature and the usage of them advised to athletes and facility users.

Start locations for sprinting activity are subjected to high wear and as such will require some rectification work prior to full resurfacing of the track. Control of the activity in these locations and lateral thinking by moving regular 'sprint start training activity' to less used areas of the track (rear straight, behind marshalling area at 100m hurdle start, etc) will reduce the need for expensive part-resurfacing works during the mid-stages of the track life.



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Additional Track Marks

Should you require additional markings on the surface, please consult Polytan STI prior to undertaking any painting. An incorrect application could result in unwanted permanent markings, whilst use of an improper paint could result in damage to the track surface.



Spartan Track – Kings College Auckland New Zealand

Minimise Surface Damage

Through regular athletics competition the inside lanes are subjected to more wear than the remainder of the track. To help spread usage across the entire track surface and prevent premature wear of the inner lanes, training access to the 1st and 2nd lanes should be restricted.

This can be done effectively with lockable barriers installed adjacent to the inside of the track. If these cannot be installed, then temporary measures such as bollards, traffic cones or movable barriers should be used to regulate track usage during training activity.

Many athletics tracks are installed with additional sprint facilities incorporated on the rear straight. To reduce stress on the main sprint event starting positions, sprint training should be conducted on the rear straight, where possible.

Traffic Movement and Loading

Vehicles should be kept off the track surface where possible and then only permitted as minimally necessary (e.g. maintenance, access to grassed field, setting up events during training and competition, etc).

Your track surface and warranty will be affected by:

- Oil or fuel spills or drips onto the surface.
- Sudden starting or twisting of wheels under load.
- Excess traffic loading

Any vehicle or implement moved across your track must not allow oil, fuel or other fluid leaks onto the track surface. If such a leak does occur, wash the area immediately with a neutral pH, non-foaming detergent and flush thoroughly with cold water.

With regard to moving vehicles and weight the following applies:

- Use vehicles with pneumatic tyres ONLY
- Total weight of the loaded vehicle must NOT exceed 4 tonne
- Average load per wheel must NOT exceed 1 tonne
- Where any uncertainty exists with a particular vehicle type or loading, dual layers of plywood must be laid in a brick-bond pattern to spread the load and eliminate point loading.
- Vehicle operators must be cautioned against:
 - Sudden twisting or turning of wheels.
 - Quick starting or stopping on the surface.
 - Screwing wheels whilst on the track surface.
 - Planks or rails must be used when taking a loaded vehicle across the internal drainage at all times, to avoid damage to this lightweight structure.
 - The raised aluminium track kerbing is not trafficable and kerbing sections must be removed to enable vehicle access across the track, when required
 - It is highly recommended an access point and path be determined prior to crossing the track edge.
- Avoid heavy traffic on your track in hot weather (above 30° C)



Rekortan M99 Vic State Athletics Melbourne

Maintenance

Check the condition and maintain your track regularly to optimise its performance. =

Things to consider when working out how regularly surface maintenance is required are:

- The condition of other nearby natural turf surfaces (grassed areas, internal field, etc).
- Shaded, tree covered track areas where algae or moss might form around fallen leaves.
- Attention to cleaning and clearing beneath the internal aluminium running rail.

Always sweep/vacuum any litter, grass cuttings, leaves or sand off the track surface at the first opportunity. This can be done in the first instance by hand or with leaf blowers, although specialist equipment is also available to undertake this activity on a more thorough basis.

Routine sweeping to remove grass clippings & vegetation is critical to prevent accumulation of organic material on the track surface. If left unattended, organic material can cause staining and hardening of the track surface.

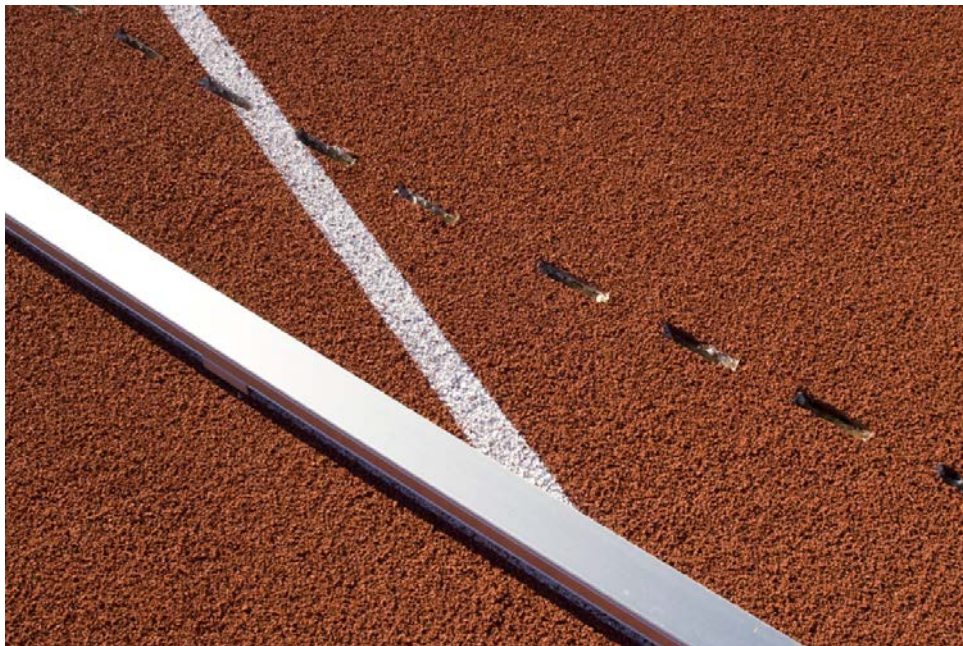


Rekortan M99 – Singapore Youth Olympics 2010

Your Polytan STI track surface is constructed with rubber granule embedded in the surface. Through regular use after installation, rubber granule will shed from the surface. This is a normal feature of the track system and does not indicate premature failure of the system.

Loose rubber granule should be periodically removed from the track surface to prevent collection under the aluminium track kerbing, which can impede the drainage performance of the facility.

It is also essential that drainage channels, grates, sumps and the slotted drainage openings around the D-sections are kept clean and free of obstruction to maintain maximum drainage efficiency.



Ensure that the underside of the track kerbing & drainage openings are kept free of obstruction

To comply with IAAF requirements, a raised aluminium kerb or running rail is installed on the inner edge of your track. This rail is segmented and designed to be removable as part of regular athletics competition and for maintenance purposes (i.e. track cleaning or vehicular access).

It is important to note that the aluminium rail is not designed to be trafficable and if vehicle access to the track infield or D-sections is required, then segments of the rail must first be removed to enable vehicle access.

Where sand is blown or tracked onto the track surface (near long and triple jump pits), sweep and clean these areas on a regular basis.

Regularly remove weeds and trim grass at the track edge. Those responsible for the regular maintenance activity should be conscious of the track maintenance requirements and ensure that surrounding areas are designed/maintained to ensure that stormwater run-off is not restricted by raised surfaces adjacent to the track.

Cleaning

Polytan STI strongly recommend a full track pressure clean be undertaken every two years and after any event that may cause water inundation or widespread dirt build-up on the track surface. This should be done with a combination of a rotary pressure cleaning head and medium pressure hand wand (combination shown below).

Polytan STI should be contacted to undertake or initially supervise the first pressure clean, to ensure a clear direction on what is required and how to conduct the works.

Ideally the aluminium rail should be cleaned occasionally with liquid detergent on a damp cloth and the rail fixing equipment (pins, mounting brackets and covers) checked.



Washing of track to be done with rotary cleaning head & hand held pressure cleaner

Repairs

Should any accidental damage occur, small bubbles or signs of delamination be detected or excessive wear appear prematurely; call Polytan STI immediately for a site visit, repair activity or immediate temporary instruction.

Any repair work should be done by qualified, trained, experienced Polytan STI technicians.



!Attention

**THIS DIRECTLY AFFECTS THE LONGEVITY OF THE
POLYTAN STI SURFACE. DO NOT LET UNTRAINED
PERSONNEL UNDERTAKE THIS TASK.**

Service Contract

We pride ourselves on the finished condition of our athletic track facilities and offer an annual service contract.

This will provide an extended life expectancy for the surface and allow track facility owners to provide themselves and their community with the comfort and security of having an expert working on and monitoring the athletics track condition on a regular basis.

This service would include:

- ✓ A full track inspection and report on its condition and life expectancy
- ✓ Repairs to minor damaged areas
- ✓ Recommendations to regular maintenance personnel on areas of any concern
- ✓ Touch up of any fading linemarking, if required
- ✓ Checking of operational equipment such as take-off board, pole vault inserts, etc

This annual service will ensure your track remains in first class condition whilst providing you with the comfort that properly maintained synthetic sports surfaces last longer.



Rekortan M99 - Vic State Athletics Track Melbourne

Usage Requirements Signage

Polytan STI recommend the installation of signage at key access points to the athletics track facility that outlines the facility usage requirements. Polytan STI are able to provide 'Rekortan and Spartan Track Rules' signage to be erected at selected locations to remind patrons of how to use their track and get the most out of it without damaging it. These signs are attractive and informative with a free call contact number for rapid advice.

These will outline the basic rules of the track usage including:

- No food or drink
- No smoking
- No spitting
- No chewing gum
- Use rubbish bins provided
- No glass or sharp objects
- Report and damage
- Allowable spike type & permitted spike length

By applying the requirements and recommendations of this maintenance manual, your Rekortan® or Spartan® track system will provide many years of service.

Enjoy your Polytan STI facility.



Rekortan M99 – Singapore Youth Olympics 2010





SPORTS
AND LEISURE
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