Asphalt for Athletic Facilities

The purpose of the asphalt guidelines document is to assist ASBA membership with general and specific strategies that should be followed to help make the use of asphalt for athletic purposes (tennis and pickle courts, running tracks, basketball courts, and multiuse courts) successful. It is important to remember the following bullet points as well as the detailed (technical) asphalt guidelines included within as well as previously published by the ASBA in both the Tennis Courts and Running Tracks Construction & Maintenance Manuals, current edition.

Tips for Producing Asphalt for Athletic Facilities

- Specify and Install asphalt for low volume use; base, leveling, and surface.
- Provide Asphalt Surface Course Mix Design with:
  1. Maximum particle size of ½” or less,
  2. Crushed coarse and fine particles,
  3. No aggregates that rust (iron pyrite or steel)
  4. Minimum of 45% sand portion in surface course mixture,
  5. Target laboratory air voids = 3.5%.
- Install asphalt surface course to:
  1. Eliminate cold joints,
  2. Specified minimum in-place density of 94.0%,
  3. Planarity, level, and trueness per ASBA.

“Utilizing the correct asphalt mix design, requiring proper production practices, performing process control, and ensuring acceptable installation follows will lead to compliant asphalt that will not cause athletic coatings or surfaces to fail prematurely.”

- Timothy R. Murphy, P.E.
Murphy Pavement Technology, Inc.