



Finley Stadium replaced its natural grass with a synthetic turf field with TenCate Tapeslide™ XP fibres in 2005.

Extended Warranty

Under certain conditions, TenCate is offering a unique extended warranty against excessive fibre splitting and wear for a full five years on artificial turf fields made with TenCate Tapeslide™ XP fibres. Remarkably, it does not limit the hours of play during the warranty period — another industry first from TenCate.

This extended warranty, which is to be sold through business partners, will cover the unlikely event that the fibres on a TenCate Tapeslide™ XP field shows excessive wear or splitting. It is defined in much stricter terms than conventional industry warranties. In such cases, compensation is based on the original value of the field.

Seven years ago, TenCate introduced fibres with its XP™ Technology. Laboratory testing at the time showed exceptional resistance to wear, which is why these TenCate Tapeslide™ XP products are recommended for high-use sports fields. Since its introduction seven years ago, TenCate has been monitoring a large number of extreme-use installations worldwide. The results are stunning: all fields made with TenCate Tapeslide™ XP fibres are not only still in use today, but without exception, they remain in excellent condition, showing either no or only minimal signs of wear, and are seemingly good to last for another seven years.

For example, Plex Indoor Sports in Columbia, South Carolina (USA) is a mini pitch that was installed with TenCate Tapeslide™ XP fibres in 2004. This field is used (and abused) on a weekly basis, with around 100 matches, as well as an after-school programme that consists of more than 50 children on a daily basis. Despite the amount of use and the absence of a maintenance programme, the TenCate Tapeslide™ XP turf blades still show no signs of splitting.

Another example is W. Max Finley Stadium; L. Gordon Davenport Field, which played host to the NCAA Division 1 FCS Championship Game from 1997-2009. During the championship game in 2004 the natural grass field, which had recently been upgraded with newly laid sod, completely disintegrated during the game. Large chunks of grass were being torn up during each play and Finley Stadium was in danger of losing the championship game because of the issues with the natural grass turf. Immediately after the game, city officials began searching for a permanent solution that would give them the peace of mind that their field would never again disintegrate in front of millions of

IN THE FIELD

TenCate describes its vast and proven field experience of high-use sports pitches.

Sports applications such as mini-soccer, community fields, indoor sports centres and fields located at schools around the world that are used both for practice and games, require a much more robust turf yarn than ever before. These fields are often played on at all hours of the day and night and with all kinds of footwear: traditional studs, blades and flat soles. Obviously, the physical stress on the fibres is extreme and they often wear out fast. In these instances of extreme use (and indeed abuse), the turf must be installed with the most durable product in order to provide the customer with a field that will last.

For many, artificial turf comes with the expectation that it can be played on relentlessly without issue. The ability to use the field at any time, and all the time, without it wearing out prematurely, is clearly one of the major reasons for the growing popularity of artificial turf. It should therefore be no surprise that a growing number of fields are used from early morning into the late hours, sometimes well over 3,000 hours a year.

"By means of this unique warranty programme, TenCate expresses its trust in the exceptional durability of our TenCate Tapeslide™ XP products," said Guido Vliegen, Group Commercial Director at TenCate Grass.

A specification for a field with enhanced durability includes not only the appropriate turf fibre material for the application but also critical details about the construction and fibre weight of the carpet and turf system. In order to qualify for TenCate performance warranties, TenCate sets technical specification guidelines and conducts performance tests to ensure that the turf system will meet the highest expectations. Furthermore, TenCate provides guidance with regard to the selection, use, care and maintenance of the right synthetic turf products for specific applications.



In Kristiansand, Norway a full-size football field with TenCate Tapeslide™ XP turf blades was installed in 2003. The field is used for more than 3,000 playing hours a year.

people. Their search led them to install a new synthetic turf field with TenCate Tapeslide™ XP fibres.

The Executive Director of Finley Stadium, Merrill Eckstein commented: "The installation of the TenCate Tapeslide™ XP turf here at Finley Stadium in 2005 was a banner event for this facility. It not only allowed us the opportunity to continue to host the NCAA Division I-AA National Championship Football Game, but it has also allowed us to add college and semi-pro soccer games, along with the high school and college football games played here. The field has stood up extremely well under much heavier usage than we anticipated."

Another instance comes from the heart of Sin City in Las Vegas, Nevada (USA), where the Kellogg-Zaher Soccer Complex is located. This venue is comprised of seven lighted synthetic turf soccer fields, only two of which were installed with TenCate Tapeslide™ XP fibres. Despite being used for soccer tournaments every weekend on top of being open to the public day and night, the TenCate Tapeslide™ XP fibre is performing superbly. The difference between the TenCate Tapeslide™ XP fields and the others is extraordinary. Walking from the non-TenCate sports fields onto the TenCate Tapeslide™ XP fields is like taking a step back in time to six years ago when the fields were first installed.

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Another example are the Cruyff Courts that are the modern day version of the empty grass plots that could be found in many neighbourhoods in the past. Unfortunately, they have been ↻



The 100th Cruyff Court was opened in The Netherlands at the end of 2009 — Cruyff Courts are made of TenCate Tapeslide™ XP fibres and are situated at strategic locations, so that enthusiasm for sport amongst youngsters is being kindled at an early age. At the same time it promotes social integration.

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IN THE FIELD

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— Andy White, Vice President, Challenger Industries.

sacrificed to urban expansion. The reintroduction of these grass plots is restoring this function to the neighbourhood and the 100th Cruyff Court was opened in The Netherlands at the end of 2009. Cruyff Courts are made of TenCate Tapeslide™ XP fibres and are situated at strategic locations, so that enthusiasm for sport amongst youngsters is being kindled at an early age. At the same time it promotes social integration.

Everett Alvarez High School in Salinas, California (USA) has a full-size American football field that they use not only for training and games but also for daily PE classes, which sees hundreds of students using the field. The field consists of alternating panels of field green and olive green TenCate Tapeslide™ XP fibres. Use of the field is not restricted only to weekdays either, as it is open for use all weekend for youth league games.

Perhaps the best example of the versatility of TenCate Tapeslide™ XP comes

from Xenia, Ohio (USA), at the global headquarters of Athletes in Action (AIA). AIA is an evangelical Christian sports ministry that works with athletes and coaches from around the world. Every summer thousands of student athletes come to Xenia for week-long camps and competitions. The AIA sports facility comprises two soccer fields, two softball fields, one baseball field and a full-size American football field; all of which are installed with TenCate Tapeslide™ XP turf. And although the fields are now entering their fifth year of play, they are no concerns about excessive wear.

Experience shows that the sustainability and durability of pitches made with TenCate Tapeslide™ XP fibres is extremely high, and products based on XP™ Technology are accepted by the industry as the proven product of choice for high-use fields.

TenCate Tapeslide™ XP fibres are quickly becoming the go-to product for

many architects and specification writers who want to feel safe in the knowledge that they have requested the most durable turf blade on the market. As John Amato, Professional Engineer of JJA Sports put it: “I was still a big fan of Tapeslide™ XP slit film products when monofilament systems first became popular in the US market. Established slit-film products had proven themselves and companies like TenCate were still making very good tape products even better. Their latest improvement, TenCate Tapeslide™ XP, is an upgrade to their highly durable products and I expect that it will prove to be the workhorse of the industry.”

Andy White, Vice President of Challenger Industries, which is a tufting company in Dalton, Georgia (USA), agreed: “In today’s marketplace, it is extremely important to provide our customers with the highest quality and most durable products at a competitive price. With this in mind, TenCate Tapeslide™ XP has become a staple in our product portfolio.”

With such glowing reports and so many years proven experience in the field, it’s easy to see why TenCate Tapeslide™ XP fibres are the product of choice for so many high-use sports fields. ✪



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