ARTIFICAL TURF AND MIKROPLASTIC – GERMAN PERSPECTIVE 2.0

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8 March 2023 • Gothenburg/SWE

About Me

Diploma in Biology
(University of Cologne & University of Marburg)

For 3 years: Consultant at a landscape planning company

For 13 years: Positions in high-performance sports management and executive management at national sports federations

Since 2013: **Officer "Sports Facilities, Environment and Sustainability"**
at German Olympic Sports Confederation
(Deutscher Olympischer Sportbund, DOSB)

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About German Olympic Sports Confederation

Non-governmental umbrella organization of German sports

Organization for consultation and advice, providing services to its independent member associations

Counts more than 27 millions of memberships, 99 member organizations and about 87.000 sports clubs

Stands for performance, health, joy of living and imparting values

Advocates in favour of sporting and environment-friendly activities along the lines of a healthy environment

Self-commitment

or

Regulatory solutions?

Fundamental Position of DOSB
(Working Group "Microplastics through sport in the environment“)

- After appropriate needs assessment, artificial turf pitches are an important component of a comprehensive, supply-oriented sports facility infrastructure - especially in urban areas.

But:

- Artificial turf pitches must not endanger the environment or even people's health in any way.

Fundamental Position of DOSB
(Working Group "Microplastics through sport in the environment“)

- The necessity of building an artificial turf system must always be critically examined.

- Funding agencies should promote the construction of the most sustainable sports facility option according to local conditions.

- Polymer-based granulates as infill should not be prioritized by funding agencies as there are more environmentally friendly alternatives available on the market.

Ongoing

- Research project:
  UKuRa - Environmentally friendly artificial turf through reduced plastic discharge and consumption
  (Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences on behalf of the Federal Institute for Sport Science)

- Research project:
  Development and investigation of a artificial turf pitch made of biobased plastics
  (Research consortium of industry and science on behalf of the Agency for Renewable Resources - Project Management Agency of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture)
  - Part 1: Material development
  - Part 2: Analysis of material behaviour

Ongoing

- Initiative Federal Agency:
  Development of a Blue Angel eco-label for artificial turf pitches
  (Fraunhofer Institute UMSICHT & Ökopol - Institute for Ecology and Policy on behalf of the Federal Environment Agency).

  > “The Blue Angel has been the ecolabel of the German Federal Government for more than 40 years. It is an independent and credible label that sets stringent standards for environmentally friendly products and services. The Blue Angel is the guide for purchasing.”

  - Part A: Design of the artificial turf system
  - Part B: Requirements for location, surroundings and operation

Ongoing

- Further scientific studies on the amount of infill material discharged from artificial turf systems and their effect on the environment.
- Development and testing of alternative organic infill materials
- Initiatives by industry to ensure a future recycling economy with regard to artificial turf systems
- Addressing the problem of secondary microplastic discharge from artificial turf playing fields
- Initiative: Standardisation of wastewater treatment for the retention of plastics from artificial turf pitches
- (Micro-)plastic discharge from horse riding areas

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION !

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