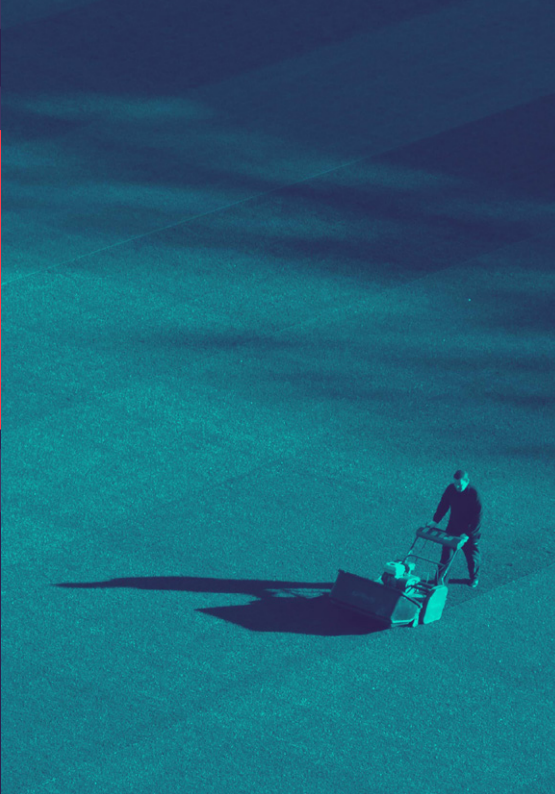


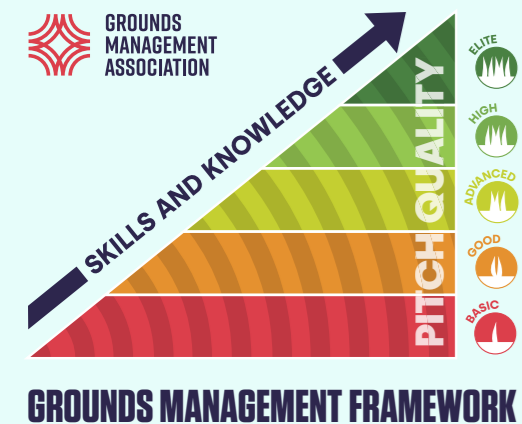
Grounds Management Framework  
Performance Quality Standards

# FOOTBALL



GROUNDS  
MANAGEMENT  
ASSOCIATION

# Football - Start of Playing Season - July to October



Performance Standard	Unit of measurement		Basic	Good	Advanced	High	What this means
Length of grass	mm	Between	60 - 75	45 - 59	35 - 44	22 - 34	The measured min/max cutting heights in mm for the season stated. In dry weather. It is often appropriate to increase grass mowing height.
Total grass cover	%	Between	65 - 74	75 - 84	85 - 94	>95	The measured % extent of grass cover, incl. unwanted grass species as well as desirable grass species.
Weeds	%	Between	11 - 15	6 - 10	3 - 5	<2	The maximum % of weeds, moss, algae and lichen within each sampled area.
Thatch	mm	Between	8 - 10	6 - 7	2 - 5	<2	The maximum depth of thatch, integrated thatch, or buried fibre averaged over the samples taken.
Root depth	%	Minimum	70	85	100	125	The measured healthy root penetration in the sampled core.
Topsoil	mm	Minimum	100	125	150	175	The measured depth of topsoil.
Goal posts	Visual	Compliance	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Uprights are to be at right angles to the surface of the pitch (taking into account the gradient of the pitch). Crossbars are to be at right angles to the uprights. All posts to be in accordance with NGB guidelines and should conform with BSEN 16579 (2018) Safety Standards. Posts will be visually assessed and designated as Compliant or Non-compliant.
Line marking	Visual	Compliance	Standard	Standard	Standard	Above Standard	<b>Above standard:</b> Line markings are always clear and straight <b>Standard:</b> Line markings are always visible but not straight <b>Below standard:</b> Line markings are not visible or have been applied using a non-standard material e.g. herbicide.
Drainage	Visual	Compliance	Standard	Standard	Standard	Above Standard	<b>Above standard:</b> Free draining - no standing water <b>Standard:</b> Slow draining - The pitch is playable, but soft underfoot and affects the quality of play for about 24 hours after heavy rainfall <b>Below standard:</b> Standing water - The pitch is still unplayable 24 hours after heavy rainfall
Pitch surface levels/Evenness	Visual	Compliance	Standard	Standard	Standard	Above Standard	How flat and level your playing surface is can have a significant impact on the playing experience, and if not kept to a good standard, can lead to ponding (puddles) during wet weather. <b>Above standard:</b> The playing surface is flat without any significant undulations (lumps and bumps) <b>Standard:</b> The playing surface is generally flat with some minimal undulations (lumps and bumps) <b>Below standard:</b> The playing surface has significant undulations (lumps and bumps)
Surface debris	Visual	Compliance	Standard	Standard	Standard	Above Standard	Any material that may be present on your playing surface that could affect the quality of matchplay or the ability to maintain the surface adequately. This may include: grass clippings, leaves, litter and animal faeces etc. <b>Above standard:</b> Surface debris does not impact on playing quality <b>Standard:</b> Surface debris has a slight impact on playing quality <b>Below standard:</b> Surface debris has a big impact on playing quality

**POOR/UNCLASSIFIED**  
A pitch/surface that fails to meet the minimum standards of the GMA's Pitch Grading Framework and could be deemed to be of poor quality.

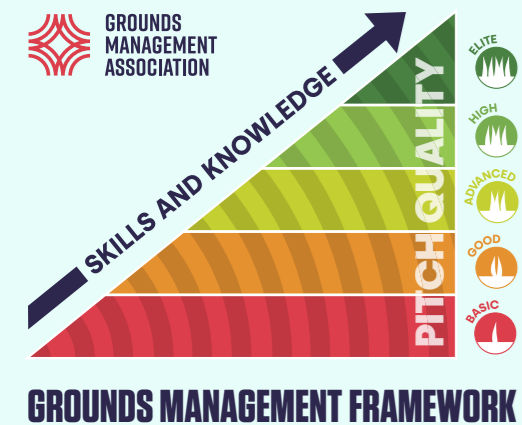
**BASIC**  
A pitch/surface that is safe for recreational sport and meets the minimum playing needs and expectations of community players nationwide.

**GOOD**  
A pitch/surface that is good quality and safe for recreational sport. It meets the playing needs and expectations of community players nationwide.

**ADVANCED**  
A pitch/surface that is high quality and meets the needs of top-level recreational sport. It meets the playing needs and expectations of both community and semi-professional players nationwide.

**HIGH**  
A pitch/surface that is of a very high quality that meets the needs of professional and semi-professional sport in the UK. It meets the playing needs and expectations of professional and semi-professional athletes nationwide.

# Football - Mid Playing Season - November to March



Performance Standard	Unit of measurement		Basic	Good	Advanced	High	What this means
Length of grass	mm	Between	60 - 75	45 - 59	35 - 44	22 - 34	The measured min/max cutting heights in mm for the season stated. In dry weather. It is often appropriate to increase grass mowing height.
Total grass cover	%	Between	61 - 70	71 - 80	81 - 90	>90	The measured % extent of grass cover, incl. unwanted grass species as well as desirable grass species.
Weeds	%	Between	16 - 20	11 - 15	6 - 10	<5	The maximum % of weeds, moss, algae and lichen within each sampled area.
Thatch	mm	Between	15 - 19	10 - 14	5 - 9	<5	The maximum depth of thatch, integrated thatch, or buried fibre averaged over the samples taken.
Root depth	%	Minimum	70	85	100	125	The measured healthy root penetration in the sampled core.
Topsoil	mm	Minimum	100	125	150	175	The measured depth of topsoil.
Goal posts	Visual	Compliance	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Uprights are to be at right angles to the surface of the pitch (taking into account the gradient of the pitch). Crossbars are to be at right angles to the uprights. All posts to be in accordance with NGB guidelines and should conform with BSEN 16579 (2018) Safety Standards. Posts will be visually assessed and designated as Compliant or Non-compliant.
Line marking	Visual	Compliance	Standard	Standard	Standard	Above Standard	<b>Above standard:</b> Line markings are always clear and straight <b>Standard:</b> Line markings are always visible but not straight <b>Below standard:</b> Line markings are not visible or have been applied using a non-standard material e.g. herbicide.
Drainage	Visual	Compliance	Standard	Standard	Standard	Above Standard	<b>Above standard:</b> Free draining - no standing water <b>Standard:</b> Slow draining - The pitch is playable, but soft underfoot and affects the quality of play for about 24 hours after heavy rainfall <b>Below standard:</b> Standing water - The pitch is still unplayable 24 hours after heavy rainfall
Pitch surface levels/Evenness	Visual	Compliance	Standard	Standard	Standard	Above Standard	How flat and level your playing surface is can have a significant impact on the playing experience, and if not kept to a good standard, can lead to ponding (puddles) during wet weather. <b>Above standard:</b> The playing surface is flat without any significant undulations (lumps and bumps) <b>Standard:</b> The playing surface is generally flat with some minimal undulations (lumps and bumps) <b>Below standard:</b> The playing surface has significant undulations (lumps and bumps)
Surface debris	Visual	Compliance	Standard	Standard	Standard	Above Standard	Any material that may be present on your playing surface that could affect the quality of matchplay or the ability to maintain the surface adequately. This may include: grass clippings, leaves, litter and animal faeces etc. <b>Above standard:</b> Surface debris does not impact on playing quality <b>Standard:</b> Surface debris has a slight impact on playing quality <b>Below standard:</b> Surface debris has a big impact on playing quality

**POOR/UNCLASSIFIED**  
A pitch/surface that fails to meet the minimum standards of the GMA's Pitch Grading Framework and could be deemed to be of poor quality.

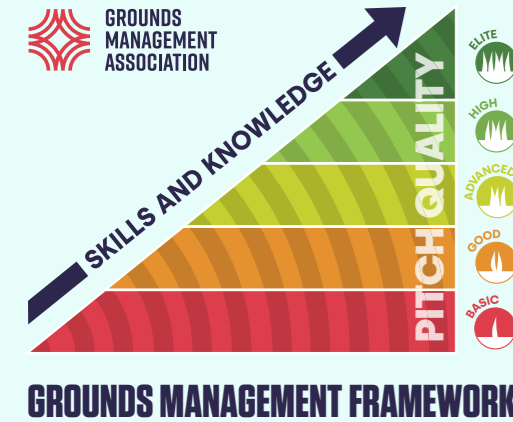
**BASIC**  
A pitch/surface that is safe for recreational sport and meets the minimum playing needs and expectations of community players nationwide.

**GOOD**  
A pitch/surface that is good quality and safe for recreational sport. It meets the playing needs and expectations of community players nationwide.

**ADVANCED**  
A pitch/surface that is high quality and meets the needs of top-level recreational sport. It meets the playing needs and expectations of both community and semi-professional players nationwide.

**HIGH**  
A pitch/surface that is of a very high quality that meets the needs of professional and semi-professional sport in the UK. It meets the playing needs and expectations of professional and semi-professional athletes nationwide.

# Football - End/Non Playing Season - April to June



Performance Standard	Unit of measurement		Basic	Good	Advanced	High	What this means
Length of grass	mm	Between	60 - 75	45 - 59	35 - 44	22 - 34	The measured min/max cutting heights in mm for the season stated. In dry weather. It is often appropriate to increase grass mowing height.
Total grass cover	%	Between	50 - 64	64 - 74	75 - 84	>85	The measured % extent of grass cover, incl. unwanted grass species as well as desirable grass species.
Weeds	%	Between	21 - 25	14 - 20	11 - 15	<10	The maximum % of weeds, moss, algae and lichen within each sampled area.
Thatch	mm	Between	15 - 19	10 - 14	5 - 9	<5	The maximum depth of thatch, integrated thatch, or buried fibre averaged over the samples taken.
Root depth	%	Minimum	70	85	100	125	The measured healthy root penetration in the sampled core.
Topsoil	mm	Minimum	100	125	150	175	The measured depth of topsoil.
Goal posts	Visual	Compliance	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Uprights are to be at right angles to the surface of the pitch (taking into account the gradient of the pitch). Crossbars are to be at right angles to the uprights. All posts to be in accordance with NGB guidelines and should conform with BSEN 16579 (2018) Safety Standards. Posts will be visually assessed and designated as Compliant or Non-compliant.
Line marking	Visual	Compliance	Standard	Standard	Standard	Above Standard	<b>Above standard:</b> Line markings are always clear and straight <b>Standard:</b> Line markings are always visible but not straight <b>Below standard:</b> Line markings are not visible or have been applied using a non-standard material e.g. herbicide.
Drainage	Visual	Compliance	Standard	Standard	Standard	Above Standard	<b>Above standard:</b> Free draining - no standing water <b>Standard:</b> Slow draining - The pitch is playable, but soft underfoot and affects the quality of play for about 24 hours after heavy rainfall <b>Below standard:</b> Standing water - The pitch is still unplayable 24 hours after heavy rainfall
Pitch surface levels/Evenness	Visual	Compliance	Standard	Standard	Standard	Above Standard	How flat and level your playing surface is can have a significant impact on the playing experience, and if not kept to a good standard, can lead to ponding (puddles) during wet weather. <b>Above standard:</b> The playing surface is flat without any significant undulations (lumps and bumps) <b>Standard:</b> The playing surface is generally flat with some minimal undulations (lumps and bumps) <b>Below standard:</b> The playing surface has significant undulations (lumps and bumps)
Surface debris	Visual	Compliance	Standard	Standard	Standard	Above Standard	Any material that may be present on your playing surface that could affect the quality of matchplay or the ability to maintain the surface adequately. This may include: grass clippings, leaves, litter and animal faeces etc. <b>Above standard:</b> Surface debris does not impact on playing quality <b>Standard:</b> Surface debris has a slight impact on playing quality <b>Below standard:</b> Surface debris has a big impact on playing quality

**POOR/UNCLASSIFIED**  
A pitch/surface that fails to meet the minimum standards of the GMA's Pitch Grading Framework and could be deemed to be of poor quality.

**BASIC**  
A pitch/surface that is safe for recreational sport and meets the minimum playing needs and expectations of community players nationwide.

**GOOD**  
A pitch/surface that is good quality and safe for recreational sport. It meets the playing needs and expectations of community players nationwide.

**ADVANCED**  
A pitch/surface that is high quality and meets the needs of top-level recreational sport. It meets the playing needs and expectations of both community and semi-professional players nationwide.

**HIGH**  
A pitch/surface that is of a very high quality that meets the needs of professional and semi-professional sport in the UK. It meets the playing needs and expectations of professional and semi-professional athletes nationwide.



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