

Grounds Management Framework  
Performance Quality Standards

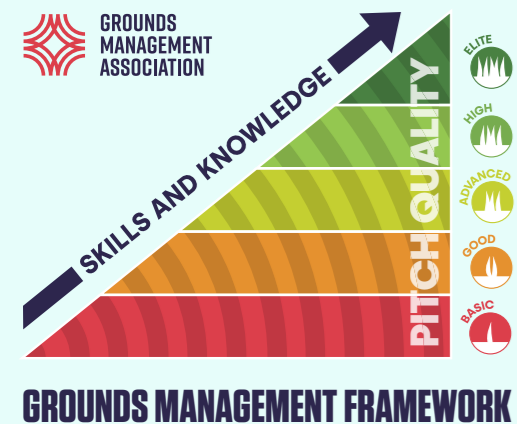
# RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE



GROUNDS  
MANAGEMENT  
ASSOCIATION



# Rugby Football League - Non Playing Season - November to February



Performance Standard	Unit of measurement		PitchPower	Unclassified	Basic	Good	Advanced	High	What this means
Length of grass/Cutting height	mm	Between	✓	<25 or 70>	61 - 70	51 - 60	41 - 50	25 - 40	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	50 - 64	65 - 74	75 - 89	>=90	The measured % extent of grass cover, incl. unwanted grass species as well as desirable grass species.
Weeds	%	Between	✓	>15	11 - 15	6 - 10	4 - 5	<=3	The maximum % of weeds, moss, algae and lichen within each sampled area.
Thatch	mm	Between	✓	>10	8 - 10	6 - 7	4 - 5	<=3	The maximum depth of thatch, integrated thatch, or buried fibre averaged over the samples taken.
Root depth	%	Minimum	✓	<70	70 - 84	85 - 99	100 - 124	>=125	The measured healthy root penetration in the sampled core.
Topsoil (Rootzone profile*)	mm	Minimum	✓	<100	124 - 100	149 - 125	174 - 150	>=175	The measured depth of topsoil.
Goal posts	Visual	Compliance	✓	Non Compliant	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	✓	Below Standard	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 (Compaction <i>Peak soil strength</i> )	Visual	Compliance	✓	Standing Water	Slow Draining	Slow Draining	Slow Draining	Free Draining	<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	✓	Below Standard	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	✓	Below Standard	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

**UNCLASSIFIED**  
The pitch fails to meet the minimum standards of the GMA's Grounds Management 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.

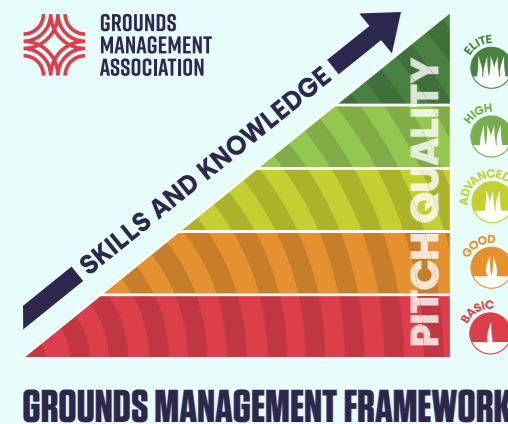
**GOOD**  
A pitch/ surface that is good quality and safe for recreational sport. It meets the playing needs and expectations of community players nationwide.

**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**  
The pitch 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.



# Rugby Football League - Start of Playing Season - March to June



Performance Standard	Unit of measurement		PitchPower	Unclassified	Basic	Good	Advanced	High	What this means
Length of grass/Cutting height	mm	Between	✓	<25 or 70>	61 - 70	51 - 60	41 - 50	25 - 40	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	✓	<=64	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	✓	>20	11 - 19	6 - 10	4 - 5	<=3	The maximum % of weeds, moss, algae and lichen within each sampled area.
Thatch	mm	Between	✓	>15	15 - 11	6 - 10	4 - 5	<=3	The maximum depth of thatch, integrated thatch, or buried fibre averaged over the samples taken.
Root depth	%	Minimum	✓	<70	70 - 84	85 - 99	100 - 124	>=125	The measured healthy root penetration in the sampled core.
Topsoil (Rootzone profile*)	mm	Minimum	✓	<100	124 - 100	149 - 125	174 - 150	>=175	The measured depth of topsoil.
Goal posts	Visual	Compliance	✓	Non Compliant	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	✓	Below Standard	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 (Compaction <i>Peak soil strength</i> )	Visual	Compliance	✓	Standing Water	Slow Draining	Slow Draining	Slow Draining	Free Draining	<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> The pitch is still unplayable 24 hours after heavy rainfall"
Pitch surface levels/Evenness	Visual	Compliance	✓	Below Standard	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)
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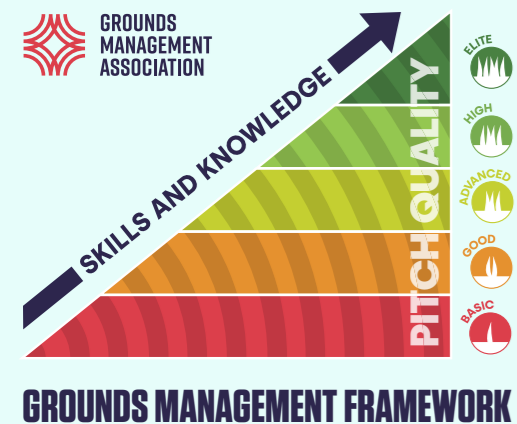
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# Rugby Football League - End of Playing Season - July to October



Performance Standard	Unit of measurement		PitchPower	Unclassified	Basic	Good	Advanced	High	What this means
Length of grass/Cutting height	mm	Between	✓	<25 or 70>	61 - 70	51 - 60	41 - 50	25 - 40	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	✓	<40	41 - 55	56 - 70	71 - 89	>=90	The measured % extent of grass cover, incl. unwanted grass species as well as desirable grass species.
Weeds	%	Between	✓	>25	25 - 16	15 - 11	4 - 10	<=3	The maximum % of weeds, moss, algae and lichen within each sampled area.
Thatch	mm	Between	✓	>10	8 - 10	6 - 7	4 - 5	<=3	The maximum depth of thatch, integrated thatch, or buried fibre averaged over the samples taken.
Root depth	%	Minimum	✓	<70	70 - 84	85 - 99	100 - 124	>=125	The measured healthy root penetration in the sampled core.
Topsoil (Rootzone profile*)	mm	Minimum	✓	<=100	124 - 101	149 - 125	174 - 150	>=175	The measured depth of topsoil.
Goal posts	Visual	Compliance	✓	Non Compliant	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.
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Drainage (Compaction <i>Peak soil strength</i> )	Visual	Compliance	✓	Standing Water	Slow Draining	Slow Draining	Slow Draining	Free Draining	<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> The pitch is still unplayable 24 hours after heavy rainfall
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