

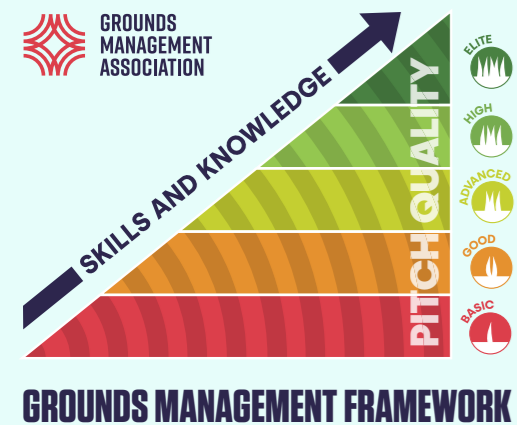
Grounds Management Framework
Performance Quality Standards

RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION



GROUNDS
MANAGEMENT
ASSOCIATION

Rugby Football Union - Start of Season - September to December



Performance Standard	Unit of measurement		PitchPower	Unclassified	Basic	Good	Advanced	High	What this means
Length of grass/Cutting height	mm	Between	✓	>=71 or <=24	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	✓	<=59	60 - 69	70 - 79	80 - 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 - 101	149 - 125	174 - 150	>=175	The measured depth of topsoil.
Line marking	Visual	Compliance	✓	Below Standard	Standard	Standard	Standard	Above Standard	Above standard: Line markings are always clear and straight Standard: Line markings are always visible but not straight Below standard: 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	Above standard: Free draining - no standing water Standard: Slow draining - The pitch is playable, but soft underfoot and affects the quality of play for about 24 hours after heavy rainfall Below standard: 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. Above standard: The playing surface is flat without any significant undulations (lumps and bumps) Standard: The playing surface is generally flat with some minimal undulations (lumps and bumps) Below standard: 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. Above standard: Surface debris does not impact on playing quality Standard: Surface debris has a slight impact on playing quality Below standard: Surface debris has a big impact on playing quality
Goal posts	Goal posts must be regularly inspected in the form of a risk assessment to ensure they are in a safe condition. When carrying out regular maintenance, this should be in line with manufacturers guidelines.								

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.

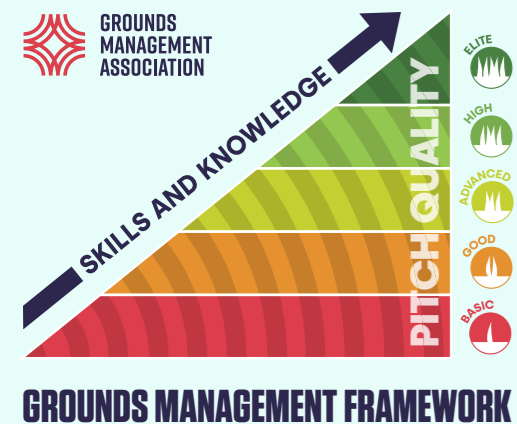
BASIC
A pitch/ surface that is safe for recreational sport and meets the minimum playing needs and expectations of community players nationwide.

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 Union - Mid/End of Season - January to May



Performance Standard	Unit of measurement		PitchPower	Unclassified	Basic	Good	Advanced	High	What this means
Length of grass/Cutting height	mm	Between	✓	>=71 or <=24	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	✓	<55	64 - 55	65 - 74	75 - 89	>=90	The measured % extent of grass cover, incl. unwanted grass species as well as desirable grass species.
Weeds	%	Between	✓	>25	21 - 25	16 - 20	11 - 15	>10	The maximum % of weeds, moss, algae and lichen within each sampled area.
Thatch	mm	Between	✓	>20	16 - 20	11 - 15	6 - 10	<5	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.
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