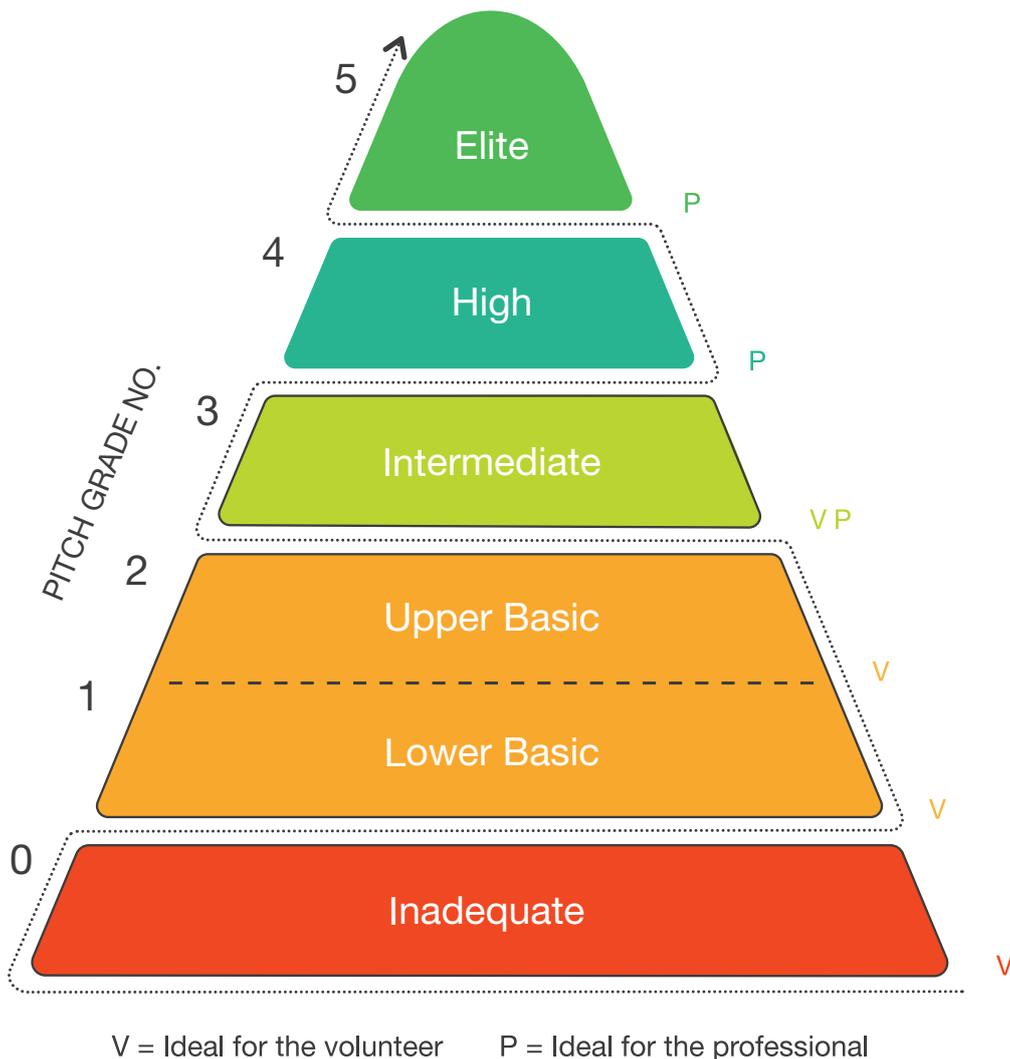




# Pitch Grading Framework for the professional and volunteer

**This learning pathway identifies the surface needs and the skills set of those that manage it – helping you to become more knowledgeable, progress your career and enhance your volunteering aspirations.**

Increase the knowledge, understanding and awareness you need in order to sustain a vital sports resource, improve capacity and reduce cancellations.





## Get match ready, with IOG Learning – practical training and online qualifications

### 5 Elite

Pitch grading: This surface is for international and professional play, or maintained to a standard fit for professional play.

#### IOG Certified Grounds Director

##### Requirement: IOG Level 5 Qualification

Our professional diploma is ideal for those wishing to demonstrate their expertise within the turf and grounds care industry. You will have at least 6 years' experience, study through distance/home learning, and tutor support, and finish with two, 2½ hour written examination papers.

### 4 High

Pitch grading: This surface is intended for senior league play. May include a school, university and local authority.

#### IOG Certified Grounds Manager

##### Requirement: IOG Level 4 Qualification

This level will suit someone wishing to consider a longer term perspective in managed turf, perhaps, a sustainable turfgrass surface. You should have at least 3 years' industry experience, a wish to gain a higher level formal qualification, but do not wish to attend a traditional college course.

### 3 Intermediate

Pitch grading: This surface is suitable for a club, local authority, league, school and junior use.

#### IOG Certified Grounds Specialist

##### Requirement: IOG Level 3 Training OR Qualification

Ideal for the experienced volunteer or employee, our Level 3 (advanced) and final training step will help you to successfully manage pitch playability. In contrast, an IOG Level 3 qualification is ideal for the professional who wishes to demonstrate their expertise within a sports turf team.

### 2 Upper Basic

Pitch grading: Acceptable for recreational play and where the surface is designed and maintained within tight financial limitations.

#### IOG Certified Grounds Assistant

##### Requirement: IOG Level 2 Training OR Qualification

Take the next step with our Level 2 training (traditional short course) and explore some of the theory involved in maintaining a specific sports turf surface. Alternatively, enrol onto an IOG Learning technical qualification for turf surface maintenance – a formal, but flexible, learning experience.

### 1 Lower Basic

Pitch grading: Acceptable for recreational play and where the surface is designed and maintained within tight financial limitations.

#### IOG Certified Grounds Assistant

##### Requirement: IOG Level 1 Training

Kickstart your journey with a progressive one-day IOG Learning course, featuring a mix of both practical working demonstrations and turf care theory. Cover the effective maintenance of a specific surface, available on a regular basis at venues across the UK. (2 days for racecourse.)

### 0 Inadequate

Pitch grading: A level that falls below the lower basic recommendation for playability, and may lead to unsafe use.

Enrol onto an IOG Learning programme, volunteer at your local sports club, and become an IOG member – access the people, the skills and the knowledge, and receive the IOG's monthly magazine direct to your door.

## Benefits

- + **Develop experience and careers in grounds care**
- + **Online and traditional learning to suit every need**
- + **Puts skills and knowledge back into public spaces**

## Raise playing surface standards, 'from the ground up'

The Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) have established a framework that is suitable for all levels of sport – from grassroots to elite, local facility to international sport. This is based on performance quality standards (PQS). A measurement originally introduced for the standards and assessment of natural turf.

For the first time, this framework lays out the standards of what is expected at each pitch grading level, with an easy-to-understand pyramid system. Each level is complemented by a training and qualification framework that features specific and 'accurately blended' learning (delivered both online and in traditional format).

The pyramid starts at grassroots and the IOG's Level 1 training, for a Certified Grounds Assistant. The IOG-led accreditations extend through the requirements to Level 5, for the professional and Certified Grounds Director. This is a progressive pathway for those who want to progress their career in sports turf management.

## Contact an advisor

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IOG members receive up to **50% off**.

Visit [www.iog.org/learning](http://www.iog.org/learning) for more information and to download the application/enquiry form.