



## **WOMEN'S PYRAMID OF FOOTBALL**

### **GROUND GRADING CATEGORY E – TIER 5**

For clubs seeking promotion to Tier 4, they should read the latest Women's Grade D ground regulations.

Clubs should note these are the minimum requirements and should aspire to exceed all criteria where possible.

#### **1. GROUND**

The ground must be suitable for staging a football match in the premier division of the Regional League structure.

A recreation ground or public park will be suitable provided that the criteria set out below can be met.

##### **1.1 Security of Tenure**

Where a club does not own the freehold of their ground then evidence of adequate security of tenure for one season must be provided.

##### **1.2 Club House**

Where there is a clubhouse facility, this should be within walking distance of the pitch.

##### **1.3 Car Parking**

There should be adequate car parking facilities on or near-by to the ground.

##### **1.4 Pitch Perimeter Barrier**

There should be a permanent fixed barrier of sound construction. The recommended height of the barrier is a minimum of 1.1 metres.

Where no permanent fixed barrier is available, the pitch must be roped off.

Clubs moving from Tier 6 to Tier 5 of the Women's Pyramid of Football must comply with this requirement by the commencement of the following season.

##### **1.5 Pitch Standards**

The playing surface must be grass, unless otherwise authorised by the respective league Management Committee, and must be of a high standard. It must be level and free from surface depressions and excessive undulations.

The maximum slope allowable shall not exceed an even gradient of vertical to horizontal 1:41 in any direction. NB When a new pitch is being developed or significant improvements made to a pitch, the gradient of 1:41 would not be acceptable and the pitch must be constructed with reference to the FA Performance Quality Standard.

The playing surface must be maintained to the highest possible standards.

### **3G football turf**

3G football turf may only be used provided conditions (i) to (v) below have been met (the “Performance Standard”):

- (i) The pitch must be surfaced with 3G football turf that has laboratory type approval according to the FIFA Quality Concept for Football Turf (2012 & 2015 editions) – FIFA Recommended One Star/Quality level.
- (ii) The 3G football turf pitch must be listed on The Association’s register of 3G football turf pitches by no later than 31 July and tested as per FA requirements at the Club's expense.
- (iii) Where a 3G football turf pitch is not yet listed on The Association’s register (for example if it is a newly installed pitch), a Club must obtain a Laboratory Performance Test Certificate or Laboratory Report and submit it to The Association by no later than 31 July.
- (iv) The Association reserves the right to instruct a Club to have its pitch tested at any time in order to ensure that it meets the Performance Standard. All such tests shall be at the Club’s expense.
- (v) The 3G football turf, including run-offs, shall be one continuous playing surface and shall be green in colour at least one metre from the outer edge of the touchline and goal line. All line markings shall be in accordance with the Laws of Association Football.

## **1.6 Playing Area**

The playing area to be a minimum of 90 metres x 45 metres and should conform to the requirements of the Laws of the Game.

Ideally, clubs should aim for the playing area to be a minimum of 100 metres by 64 metres, although this is not a requirement until Women’s Grade C.

Goalposts and goal net supports should be of professional manufacture and conform to the relevant safety requirements and to the requirements of the Laws of the Game.

Reference should be made to the Goalpost Safety information published by The Football Association and, in particular, it should be noted that the use of metal cup hooks is prohibited.

## **1.7 Emergency Access**

Access must be provided for the emergency services and maintained free from obstruction.

## **2. DRESSING ROOM FACILITIES**

All dressing room areas must be maintained to a high standard of cleanliness and be heated, well ventilated, free from damp and secure on match days.

## **2.1 Players**

Separate dressing rooms must be provided for both teams within the footprint of the ground.

Each dressing room must have the following:

- A shower area
- At least 1 wash hand basin located outside the shower area  
(All the above must have hot and cold running water)
- At least 1 WC in a cubicle

## **2.2 Match Officials**

Separate dressing rooms must be provided for match officials. Each match officials' dressing room must have the following:

- A shower area
- At least 1 WC in a cubicle
- At least 1 wash hand basin

Clubs must ensure a solution is provided for mixed gender refereeing teams if required.

## **3. MEDICAL**

There must be a suitable qualified person (minimum F.A. Introduction to First Aid in Football) in attendance.

All clubs must provide first aid equipment at their ground