

GOALPOST AND PITCH SIZES

The FA receives many enquiries around pitch and goal sizes suitable for all age groups and therefore suggests the following should be applied where possible:-

Suggested Pitch Size (yards)	Suggested Size of Goalposts	Pitch Dimensions in Yards				Pitch Dimensions in Metres			
		Length		Width		Length		Width	
		Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min
Mini-Soccer U7 & U8									
50 x 30	6ft x 12ft	50	30	30	20	45.75	27.45	27.45	18.3
Mini-Soccer U9 & U10									
60 x 40	6ft x 12ft	60	50	40	30	54.9	45.75	36.6	27.45
9 v 9									
80 x 50	7ft x 16ft	85	70	55	45	78.46	64	50.77	42
Youth U11 & U12 (11 v 11)									
80 x 50	7ft x 21ft	90	75	55	45	82	68.25	50.77	42
Youth U13 & U14 (11 v 11)									
90 x 55	7ft x 21ft	100	80	60	50	91	72.8	56	45.5
Youth U15 & U16 (11 v 11)									
100 x 60	8ft x 24ft	110	90	70	50	100.6	82.3	64	45.5
Youth U17 & U18 and Seniors (11 v 11)									
110 x 70	8ft x 24ft	130	100	100	50	120	90	90	45.5

Note: County FAs and Leagues may have defined rules for their own competitions and reference should always be made to their handbooks for additional guidance and compliance.

Run-offs for natural grass pitches should be a minimum of 1.83 metres (6 feet) but ideally 2 metres.

The run-off must be of natural grass and must not be of tarmac or concrete construction, with no barriers or obstructions evident within the run-off area.

Where pitches neighbour others within a confined area, the minimum run-off between both pitches should ideally be 4 metres to allow for spectators watching either match.

The Laws of the Game may be modified in their application for matches for players of under 16 years of age, for women footballers, for veteran footballers (over 35 years) and for players with disabilities.

Any or all of the following modifications are permissible:-

- (a) the size of the field of play
- (b) the size, weight and material of the ball
- (c) the width between the goalposts and the height of the crossbar from the ground
- (d) the duration of the periods of play
- (e) substitutions

ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCHES (AGPS)

There continues to be significant interest in the use of artificial grass pitches for clubs in the National League System and below.

Much of this interest, both from leagues and clubs within the non-League pyramid, seeks to understand The FA's position regarding the sanction of these pitches, particularly in FA Competitions. Following the introduction of artificial grass pitches into some FA competitions, the various FA Committees have again approved the use of such pitches in their respective competitions from season 2011/12:

- FA Trophy
- FA Vase
- FA Youth Cup (qualifying rounds only)
- FA Women's Premier League and Cup
- FA Sunday Cup
- FA County Youth Cup

The use of such pitches is however dependent on compliance with conditions of use, which has been viewed by each Committee too – a copy of these is available for download and should be read in association with these notes.

It has been agreed therefore that matches from next season may be played on artificial grass pitches that conform to the FIFA 1 star standard, or the equivalent International Artificial Turf Standard (IATS) in all FA Competitions, except the FA Cup (all rounds) and FA Youth Cup (Rounds proper).

To qualify for use, the pitch must be certified by The FA as meeting the FIFA 1 Star standard or the equivalent International Artificial Turf Standard. The relevant certificate must be supplied to The FA and relevant competition before play is allowed.

Clubs should make their own risk assessment of whether such an installation is plausible or not given their individual circumstances. There is a risk that pitches may deteriorate over time and may not achieve the required standards at each period of retesting.

It is suggested that clubs negotiate suitable longevity warranties from the carpet manufacturers to ensure that the pitch will last in line with the Club's business plan and intended usage levels. A sinking fund should be established too to ensure sufficient funds are available when the carpet needs replacing.

Clubs are encouraged to understand the full maintenance required, which may be necessary to validate any warranty.

The FA together with representatives from the industry have prepared information regarding the design, installation, construction, maintenance and testing of Artificial pitches. This information can be accessed within the facilities section of the FA's website – www.TheFA.com.

Mark Pover
National Facilities Manager
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