

GOALPOST AND PITCH SIZES

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

Age grouping	Type	Recommended size of Goal Posts		Maximum Recommendation without runoff		Recommended size including runoff (Safety area around pitch)	
		(Height x width) ft		(Length x width) yds		(Length x width) yds	
Mini-Soccer U7/U8	5 v 5	6	12	40	30	46	36
Mini Soccer U9/U10	7 v 7	6	12	60	40	66	46
Youth U11/U12	9 v 9	7	16	80	50	86	56
Youth U13/U14	11 v 11	7*	21*	90	55	96	61
Youth U15/U16	11 v 11	8	24	100	60	106	66
Youth U17/U18	11 v 11	8	24	110	70	116	76
Over 18 Senior Ages	11 v 11	8	24	110	70	116	76

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.

The FA recommends that run-off's for natural grass pitches should be a minimum of 3 yards all around the pitch. For those clubs playing in the football pyramid the minimum safety run off is 1.83 metres (6 feet) but ideally at least 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 6 yards 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

* If a pitch is to be provided for U13/14 it is recommended that 7 x 21 goalposts are provided. However, it should be noted that 8 x 24 would also be acceptable as not all sites will be able to provide specifically for this age group

THIRD GENERATION FOOTBALL TURF PITCHES (Artificial Grass)

There continues to be significant interest in the use of Third Generation Football Turf pitches (3G) 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 Football Turf pitches (FTP's) into some FA competitions, the various FA Committees have again approved the use of such pitches in their respective competitions from season 2012/13:

- FA Trophy
- FA Vase
- FA Youth Cup (qualifying rounds only)
- FA Women's Super League, 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 – a copy of these is available for download and should be read in association with these notes.

It has been agreed that matches for steps 1 – 6 of the football pyramid from next season may be played on Football Turf 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 annually 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.

Matches for Step 7 and below considering use of Football Turf pitches should note that permission can be given subject to the pitch meeting the correct performance criteria (relaxed from the FIFA 1 star). The test results should be submitted to the FA for verification and inclusion on the register of approved pitches. The testing requirements at this level are every 3 years.

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 pitch 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 to ensure sufficient funds are available when the surface 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 Football Turf pitches and The FA Facilities and Investment team can also offer advice to clubs considering installation. This information can be accessed within the facilities section of The FA's website www.TheFA.com.

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