

FOOTBALL PITCHES

Performance Quality Standard Tables

1. Structural Quality

Performance Standard	Method of Test	Quality Standard		
		High	Standard	Basic
A. Herbage				
i) Length of herbage: during the growing season	1	to be between 25 to 40mm	to be between 25 to 50mm	to be between 30 to 60mm
	1	to be between 20 to 40mm	to be between 20 to 60mm	to be between 20 to 70mm
ii) Bare area.	3	max. 10%	max. 15%	max. 25%
iii) Total ground cover	3	min. 90%	min. 85%	min. 75%
iv) Desirable grass species	3	min. 80%	min. 70%	min. 60%
v) <i>Poa annua</i>	3	max. 10%	max. 20%	max. 30%
vi) Other undesirable grass species	3	Nil	max. 5%	max. 10%
vii) Weeds - Large-leaved	3	Nil	max. 2%	max. 10%
viii) Weeds - Small-leaved	3	Nil	max. 5%	max. 5%
ix) Moss	3	Nil	Nil	max. 2%
x) Algae and Lichen	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
B. Pests and Diseases				
i) Diseases	3	Nil	max. 2%	max. 2%
ii) Earthworms	3	max. 1%	max. 5%	max. 10%
iii) Pests	3	Nil	Nil	max. 2%
C. Profile				
i) Root depth	4	Min. 150mm	Min. 100mm	Min. 75mm
ii) Thatch depth	4	Max. 5mm	Max. 10mm	Max. 15mm
iii) Rootzone medium	4	Min. 200mm	Min. 150mm	Min. 100mm
iv) Rootzone silt & clay content	14	Max. 6%	Max. 17%	Max. 25%
v) Infiltration rate	5	Min. 10mm per hour	Min. 5mm per hour	Min. 2mm per hour
vi) Evenness: 2m straight edge, or	2	Max. variation 15mm	Max. variation 18mm	Max. variation 25mm
		0.5m straight edge	8mm	10mm
vii) Soil pH	15	6.0 - 7.0	5.8 - 7.5	5.8 - 7.5
viii) Soil nutrient level: P ₂ O ₅	11	Index 2	Index 2	Index 2
ix) Soil nutrient level: K ₂ O	12	Index 2	Index 2	Index 2
x) Gradient: Length ways Across the pitch	16	> 1:200 1:150 - 1:100	1:200 - 1:100 1:100 - 1:80	1:100 - 1:80 1:80 - 1:50

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2. Presentational Quality

Performance Standard	Method of Test	Quality Standard		
		High	Standard	Basic
i) Appearance	Visual	100% uniform texture	min. 90% uniform texture	min. 70% uniform texture
ii) Goal posts	13	(a) Uprights are to be at right angles to the surface of the pitch (taking into account the gradient of the pitch). (b) Crossbars are to be at right angles to the uprights.		
iii) Pitch line markings	Visual	visible from a min. 60m	visible from a min. 45m	visible from a min. 30m
iv) Surface debris	Visual	Nil	Nil	Nil
v) Sward colour [†]	Visual	100% uniform	90% uniform	70% uniform

3. Playing Quality

Performance Standard	Method of Test	Quality Standard		
		High	Standard	Basic
Ball roll	8	to be between 7 to 10m	to be between 4 to 12m	to be between 2 to 16m
Hardness	10	to be between 65 to 120 gravities	to be between 55 to 140 gravities	to be between 35 to 200 gravities
Traction	9	Min. 40 Nm	Min. 30 Nm	Min. 20 Nm
Vertical ball bounce	7	to be between 32 to 42%	to be between 25 to 45%	to be between 20 to 55%

[†] The provider or maintainer would specify the actual colour of the pitch. The uniformity of this colour should then comply with the parameters stated. A suitable colour standard to use is the Munsell® colour charts for plant tissues.

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Test location on a pitch

All tests can be carried out anywhere on the pitch.

Sampling locations, as suggested in BS7370, should be distributed fairly evenly over the whole area, using a 'W' pattern.

The determination of the exact location of the test should be on a random basis. For example, once the general location of the test is reached then a measuring stick would be thrown a short way. The test measurement would be made where the zero is located on the measuring stick. Other random sampling methods could also be used.

Timing of the tests

The tests can be carried out at any time during the year, except for the following:

a) Presentational Quality:

Colour and Appearance - Spring, Summer and Autumn only.

It is generally unrealistic to be able to control colour when grass is effectively dormant for a relatively long period of time; thus the 'Sward colour' performance standard is excluded from testing during the winter.

In addition, with mowing being almost totally confined to the three stated seasons, it is also unrealistic to test the 'Appearance' performance standard during the winter.

b) Playing Quality:

These are only tested once a pitch has been prepared for play.