

## **GPMF FAQs**

### **My Grant**

#### **How do we claim our first payment of the grant?**

When you accept the grant on your Football Foundation Account, you will be able to claim your first payment. Log in to your Account and follow the step by step guide on how to make your claim – the whole claim process is now online.

#### **How do we claim subsequent grant payments? How do we claim our first payment of the grant?**

After 12 months has elapsed and you have submitted your two PitchPower assessments, you will be prompted to submit your second (third, fourth, fifth and sixth) grant claim. You will be asked to evidence what you have spent your previous grant amount on during the previous season, and once this information has been checked and approved, your next payment will be made. Should there be any anomalies or queries regarding your grant claim, a member of our Grant Management Team will be in touch to discuss.

#### **If our pitches improve to a 'Good' standard part way through our grant, are we still eligible to claim the rest of our grant?**

Yes, the grant will still be available to help sustain your pitch at a 'Good' standard or higher.

**Do you have a preferred list of suppliers?** No, the club must source appropriately qualified professionals to carry out the works.

**Can we pay the Local Authority to carry out the additional works?** No, the works must be carried out by an independent contractor.

**Can we use the contractor that the Local Authority uses to do the work?** Yes, as long as the contractor is not the Local Authorities in house maintenance team.

**How much can we apply for?** Clubs can apply for the following amounts (inc. VAT) for each eligible pitch;

'Basic' or below (Enhance):

11 v 11 - £2,500

9 v 9 - £2,000

Mini Soccer - £1,500

'Good' or higher (Sustain):

11 v 11 - £750

9 v 9 - £500

Mini Soccer - £300

The above are year 1 amounts at 100% funding. Grants will be tapered down every two years by 33% (years 1 & 2 = 100%, years 3 & 4 = 67%, years 5 & 6 = 33%). Examples per pitch size are provided below.

The above amounts should be used to carry out the maintenance recommendations listed within the PitchPower Assessment Report

#### **How much funding do we need to contribute?**

Partnership funding is only required on the pitches that need enhancing to 'Good'. The total partnership funding required is 33%. Examples of the partnership funding requirements can be found [here](#). A calculator will be provided which will work out funding amounts for any type of site layout. Funding towards 'sustaining' your pitch is in recognition of your hard work in getting it to the 'Good' standard and to help you keep it there.

**How will the Foundation pay its grant?** The Foundation will make six annual payments to the applicant, paid in advance. The payment schedule will be included in your offer letter.

### **How much will the Foundation pay each year?**

The payment schedule is included within your offer letter, but the Foundation will pay a tapered percentage of the project costs for each of the six years. The grant amount will be bespoke to your application based on the funding per pitch mentioned previously.

### **How often does we have to provide information about our pitches and for how long?**

The applicant will be asked to complete two PitchPower inspections per year on each pitch for 10 years so we can measure its standard and provide ongoing support and advice to you.

### **Why do you need this information about our pitches?**

The Football Foundation and its funding partners have a target of 20,000 'Good' (or higher) grass pitches by 2030. This information will help us monitor that, learn about the quality of grass pitches nationally and if our funding is having the desired impact.

### **What happens if we do not provide the data requested?**

No further funding towards your grass pitches will be released and you would be in breach of our terms and conditions. The Football Foundation would reserve the right to reclaim all of its grant paid to date from you in full.

### **In the PitchPower FAQs it says to use a soil sampler. Can I use this funding to purchase a soil sampler to aid with future PitchPower inspections?**

Yes, a soil sampler is an eligible item.

## **Eligibility/Application Process**

### **Why do we need the written consent of the land owner?**

There must be a written agreement between the landowner and the club, using the Grass Pitch Maintenance Agreement proforma, if you do not own the freehold, have an uninteruptable lease of 10 years or have a licence of 10 years. This is to ensure there is an agreement between all parties to enable works to be carried out to enhance/sustain the quality of the grass pitches. The Grass Pitch Maintenance Agreement pro forma you need can be provided by your local County FA (contact details for your local County FA can be found [here](#)).

### **We've more than ten pitches on our site, and the application will not let us add more than ten pitches to the application**

If your site has more than ten pitches, you will require Football Foundation approval to apply. Given the potential size of the grant request, we'll want to discuss to understand if this approach is sustainable and affordable for the applicant, or whether another approach would be more suitable.

Your site might be subject to a Legal Charge or Restriction if the grant is for more than £100,000, this will be managed on a case by case basis.

**Our club plays across multiple sites – can we make more than one application?** Yes, but each site must be applied for individually and must have its own PitchPower Assessment Report.

### **What is a PitchPower Assessment Report?**

A PitchPower Assessment Report is what is provided after pitches have been inspected and assessed using the Football Foundation's PitchPower digital tool. A performance quality standard is provided per pitch as well as recommendations on how to improve/maintain the quality of your pitches.

### **Do we need information from the PitchPower Assessment Report for the application?**

Yes, you will need to enter the first part of the PitchPower Assessment Report ID within the application (shown in the example below). This number is unique to each report. All relevant PitchPower data will then be populated within the application form for you.

The numbers in bold are needed for the GPMF application form. This number could be one digit or numerous digits.

**Report ID: XXXX/3EVGxBO-2oXfx\_OL84AmF8E07DI**

### **Our PIP report was produced between 2012 and 2017 – do we need a new PitchPower Assessment Report before we can apply for funding?**

Yes, all sites require a PitchPower Assessment Report prior to making an application to the Football Foundation.

### **Since we received our PitchPower Assessment Report we have changed the pitch layout of the site and have increased or decreased the number of pitches on site, and / or changed their dimensions? What should we do?**

You should submit another PitchPower inspection for all pitches you maintain on the site. This will enable the GMA to assess the most recent layout of pitches and ensure the PitchPower Assessment Report represents the accurate site layout.

**Who is eligible to apply?** The programme is open to clubs and leagues to apply for funding to improve and maintain the quality of their grass pitches.

**Can Local Authorities apply?** No.

**Can Charities apply?** Yes, if they have a turnover of less than £500,000 per year. Charities with a turnover + than this amount must first seek approval to apply from FF.

### **Can County FA's apply for funding to maintain pitches on behalf of their clubs or leagues?**

The County FA would need to discuss the proposal with the Football Foundation before making any application.

### **Through PitchPower we have some pitches that have been rated as 'Good' (or higher) and some pitches that have been rated as 'basic' (or lower). Can we apply for all our pitches?**

Yes, all pitches are eligible for funding, however, the grant amounts will be different for pitches rated as 'Good' (or higher) and those pitches rated as 'Basic' (or lower). For the first time funding will be provided to improve pitches rated below 'Good' (to get to 'Good') and to sustain 'Good' (or higher) pitches at that level

### **Can clubs that play in the National League System, from Step 1 to 6, apply?**

We are unable to fund grass pitches that are used for football at Step 1 to 6. If there are other grass pitches at the site that are used for community football, the club could apply for funding for those pitches. Clubs within the National League System are eligible to apply for maintenance machinery and capital improvements to a first-team pitch via the Football Stadia Improvement Fund (FSIF) and should contact a member of the Football Foundation's Technical team to discuss further.

### **What tenure do we need to apply?**

You need to own the freehold, have an uninterrupted lease of 10 years, have a licence for 10 years or have the written consent of the landowner. Written consent of the landowner must be demonstrated using the Grass Pitch Maintenance Agreement pro forma which can be obtained from your local County FA. The contact details for your local County FA can be found [here](#).

### **Can a club that plays in a Regional NLS Feeder League (formerly Step 7) apply?**

Yes, but only if the pitch is also used by other grassroots teams (Women's, Reserves, U18's or Youth)

## **The Fund**

### **How long will the fund be open for? Is there a funding window?**

No there is no funding window, applications will be accepted until the fund has been used. The fund is allocated on a first come first-served basis.

### **Why are there different funding amounts for Enhance and Sustain?**

Enhancing a pitch from below a 'Good' standard requires more investment than sustaining a pitch at a 'Good' standard.

### **Do we have to apply for funding for ALL the pitches detailed in the PitchPower Assessment Report, or can we apply for just a proportion of them?**

Yes, you must apply for funding towards all pitches detailed within your PitchPower Assessment Report. Your PitchPower Assessment Report ID will be required during the application process.