



## Pitch Maintenance – Contractor services

*Football Foundation information document*

### Summary

Supporting clubs and leagues to provide better quality natural turf playing surfaces and reducing the number of matches postponed is a key priority for the Foundation. We will accept applications for club and league led schemes to engage professional contractors over a six year period to increase the levels of enhanced maintenance works carried out on their grass pitches, with an aim of improving the quality of those facilities to the Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) 'Good' standard or above. Details of the IOG's Pitch Framework can be found here;

(<https://www.iog.org/who-we-are/research-and-funding/grounds-natural-turf-improvement-programme> )

The type of maintenance works that funding can support include over seeding, scarification and aeration. Routine maintenance works such as grass cutting and line marking is not eligible.

### Grant limits

The Foundation will award a tapered 67% grant towards the works over a six year period on a sliding scale.

Depending on the size of the pitch being invested in, up to £2,100 (excluding VAT) per full size 11 v 11 pitch will be available. There is no maximum number of pitches that can be funded on one site, but 9v9 and Mini Soccer pitches will receive a reduced rate of funding. Where sites have more than ten pitches, a discussion with the Foundation and County FA regarding the strategic importance of the site will be required.

As an example, a grant would be paid as follows over six years for a one 11 v 11 pitch site excluding VAT;

Year	Football Foundation contribution (% / £)	Applicant contribution (% / £)
1	100% / £2,100	0% / £0
2	100% / £2,100	0% / £0
3	67% / £1,407	33% / £693
4	67% / £1,407	33% / £693
5	33% / £693	67% / £1,407
6	33% / £693	67% / £1,407
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>67% / £8,400</b>	<b>33% / £4,200</b>



## Criteria

The funding is only available for clubs and leagues– Local Authorities and other site operators must have a club or league partner to be eligible for funding.

The applicant must have a Grass Pitch Assessment Report from the Institute of Groundsmanship Regional Pitch Advisor (RPA) which clearly recommends the additional maintenance works required. Where the Assessment Report does not provide that level of detail due to the age of the report, the RPA can retrospectively complete a pro forma for the applicant.

Only pitches that are rated by the IOG as 'basic' or 'poor' standard will be eligible for funding, as the funding is provided to raise their quality to a 'Good' standard or above.

Payments will be paid annually in advance, and applicants will be expected to provide a digital update (via the Digital Assessment Tool to be launched in spring 2020) showing the condition of their pitches three times per year over the following ten year period.

## Tenure requirements

Ownership by either freehold, or uninterruptable leasehold from the date of grant offer for a varying period, dependent on the grant amount;

- Up to £25,000 – 5 years
- £25,001 up to £100,000 – 10 years
- Over £100,000 – 21 years

Where the applicant does not have security of tenure by freehold or leasehold for the length of the award, they may still be able to apply for funding as long as the owner of the site provides written consent to the works being carried out, using the standard pro forma provided. We will require written confirmation of the landlord's consent to undertake the proposed works.

Where a facilities grant is given for a sum of £100,000 or over, the Foundation will need in most cases to take a first charge (mortgage) over the premises on which the facilities are located. You will need to supply us with evidence that you own the freehold of the premises, or that you have a lease of the premises with a minimum remaining term of 21 years.

## Suppliers

The Foundation does not currently have a preferred contractors list. Applicants should source quotes for the works from a reputable local contractor.



## Documents required

To ensure your application is processed you will need the following documents:

- Grass pitch assessment report from IOG RPA (with additional pro forma from the IOG RPA if required)
- Evidence of leasehold or freehold, or written consent of landowner via the pro forma (If applicable)
- The applicant will have to confirm as part of the application form that they will provide the balance of partnership funding.

## Assessment timescales

Upon submission of your application and the receipt of any supporting documentation, you will receive confirmation that the application has been logged.

Your application will be assessed by our Grant Management Team, who will contact you to discuss your application if they have any queries.

Assessment of your application will typically take around two weeks for grants of less than £50,000. For grants in excess of £50,000 the timescales will be four weeks. You will then receive a notification by email that your decision letter (and any associated terms and conditions) is available for download from your Foundation account.

## Funding window

Initial applications for funding will only be accepted during a first window which will be open between the 25th November 2019 and 28th February 2020.

A further window will be opened later in 2020 – dates to be confirmed in due course.