



## **Pitch Maintenance – Drainage**

*Football Foundation information document*

### **Summary**

Providing a suitable playing surface is essential to sustain and increase participation, and the Foundation provides funding for works to improve the condition of natural turf pitches.

### **Grant limits**

The Foundation will award a maximum grant of £25,000. Grants cannot exceed 75% of the total project costs. Where a grant of over £25,000 is required for pitch drainage works, the applicant should contact their County FA and / or Foundation Engagement Manager to discuss the project in more detail.

### **Criteria**

As a pre-requisite to applying for funding, you must have engaged with an IOG Regional Pitch Advisor (RPA) and sought advice regarding the issues faced with your pitch. Please contact your County FA to discuss how to seek advice from the RPA. Funding will only be considered if their report suggests that capital works are required to improve the condition of the pitch, and if all other options (such as improved maintenance) have been exhausted.

Where the works involve the installation of a piped drainage system, we would expect a RIPTA qualified agronomist or sports turf consultant to design and specify the works, and oversee its implementation. Where a piped drainage installation is discharging into a ditch, swale or other watercourse, permission from the Environment Agency or Local Authority may be required. If so, this permission must be in place before the application is submitted.

If you do not own the freehold for the site, we will require written confirmation of the landlord's consent to undertake the proposed works.

We will not fund works deemed as 'routine maintenance operations' such as for grass pitches cutting or line marking. For enhanced maintenance works, separate grants are available and subject to their own guidance notes.

As a result of the works, it will be expected that grass pitches will be maintained to a 'Good' standard or above.



## 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

## Documents required

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

- Photographs of the existing pitches, indicating the problem to be resolved via the proposed works
- Grass pitch assessment report from IOG RPA
- Where a piped drainage installation is being proposed, a feasibility study and specification of works from a qualified agronomist or sports pitch consultant
- Plans / drawings / specification / schedule of works
- Two like-for-like quotations, based upon the design details and specification
- Evidence of the additional partnership funding
- Local Authority / Environment Agency approval (if applicable)
- Landlords consent to the works (if applicable)

## 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. 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.