

# FA Pitch Improvement Programme in Merseyside



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**Access professional support to maintain and improve your natural grass football pitch.**

The Liverpool FA are working in partnership with The FA Facilities and Investment Team, and The Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) to develop a grass pitch maintenance service which can be utilised by grassroots football clubs, with the simple aim of improving the quality of grass pitches.

The need for this service is more relevant now than ever, given the current economic times and the pressures facing grassroots football. The key principles behind the service are to provide football clubs with advice and practical solutions on a number of areas.

In Merseyside we will be working with the IOG and North West Regional Pitch Advisor, alongside a local professional Groundsman to provide visits to local clubs in the county. To qualify for visits a club will need to own their own site OR be responsible for maintenance of the grass pitches.

**Programme Benefits:**

- Access to expert advice at a substantial cost saving compared to an independent agronomist report
- Pitch maintenance advice and support tailored to the needs, budget, expertise and equipment available
- Potential to access external funding for pitch development and or maintenance equipment

**Programme Process:**

- Clubs complete and submit an Expression of Interest Form if they wish to join and commit to the 12 month programme.
- Liverpool FA and the Regional Pitch Advisor may select/target a number of clubs depending on the availability

of the Pitch Advisors.

- Liverpool FA will coordinate the time and date of the first visit in conjunction with the selected club.
- Liverpool FA will notify the Pitch Advisor of visits and all relevant details
- The Regional Pitch Advisor completes the first site visit.
- A report is produced by the Pitch Advisor with a copy for the club and Liverpool FA.
- Club follows recommendations and actions.
- Feedback sought from club following agreed milestones and timescales, based on the recommendations provided by the Pitch Advisor.
- Should the maintenance recommendations not result in an improved pitch or surface, there may be some further improvement work required on the site and the club can discuss funding options with the Liverpool FA Head of Strategy and Facilities.
- Liverpool FA will contact the club to organise a follow-up visit for 12 months after the original assessment date to gauge whether interventions have been successful, the standard of the playing surfaces have improved and offer further advice on next steps.

### Costs and Payment

The cost for the programme is £100 per facility which includes two visits and a report. Clubs will be required to pay Liverpool FA, 14 days in advance of the visit following receipt of an invoice.

To express your interest **please complete the form below**

For more information or further support surrounding the Pitch Improvement Programme, please contact:

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