

# NORTH RIDING CFA

Date 18/10/21



GROUNDS  
MANAGEMENT  
ASSOCIATION



Making sport possible

Making sport possible

## Section 1

# Q & A with Regional Pitch Advisor North East



## Drainage

An adequate supply of soil moisture is essential for plant growth, but an excess will be both detrimental to growth and will often mean that any surface is unplayable.

### **DRAINAGE SYSTEMS**

Any installed drainage system will only be as good as the maintenance and management to which it is subjected, particularly when a few years have elapsed

### **CHECK LIST**

Outfall.

Inspection Chambers

Pipe Spacings (Old systems were at 10m apart which effected the effectiveness of the system, should be now around 5m apart)

# PITCH CONDITIONS

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## **Standing water and or slow draining facilities.**

Usually caused by:

Over rolling the facility

Machinery

Over Play/ Training

Poor soil structure

## **Recommendations:**

Aeration in the form of deep tines to below the compaction level. Minimum of twice a year  
Oct –Nov & March - April

Slitting in the form of Linear blades, again to below the compaction level. As often as required.

Surface aeration in the form of star litters usually 2 to 2.5” in depth ideal to be done after games to help relieve that surface compaction of play

# THATCH

THATCH IS THE GENERAL TERM USED TO DESCRIBE THE LAYERS OF ORGANIC FIBROUS MATERIAL FOUND IN TURF. THATCH ACCUMULATION IS A NATURAL PHENOMENON OF TURF DEVELOPMENT AND CANNOT EVER BE ENTIRELY PREVENTED. IT WILL ACT LIKE A SPONGE HOLDING SURFACE WATER AND PREVENTING IT FROM PERCOLATING THROUGH THE SOIL PROFILE.

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

Aeration.

Rake.

Application of Top Dressing.

# IN SEASON WORKS

Throughout the year when conditions permit supplement decompaction and mowing operations with regular surface slitting and grooming to reduce surface compaction, improve ingress of water, air and nutrients and maintain connection between surface and deeper rootzone with attendant fractures and fissures.

By surface grooming it provides the club the ability to apply disc star slitting to help alleviate surface compaction, rake over the surface, light roll and brush in one pass which is invaluable to providing and maintain a quality playing surface.



# PESTS & DISEASE

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## CHAFER GRUBS.

The grubs are the larvae of chafer beetles

There are 4 species the most common one in sandy soils on sports and amenity grounds is the Welsh Chafer it has a 2-year life cycle.

The grubs eat the roots of the grass plant , the main damage will be done through secondary feeding from Badgers, Foxes & Crows as they scratch the surface to get to the grubs.



## PESTS & DISEASE

### CHAFER GRUBS.

Currently there is nothing on the market in the form of a chemical to eradicate the grubs, so prevention is the only form of attack. A thick sward of grass will limit the options for the beetle to get into the soil and lay the eggs, so a good maintenance regime of over seeding, rake out the thatch layer to encourage strong growth. There is the option of using nematodes which can be applied through spraying them on to the surface, they will then work there way into the soil and attack the grubs.





# PESTS & DISEASE

## FAIRY RINGS.

There are three types of 'Fairy Ring'

**Type 1** Rings of dead grass with growth on the inner and outer side of the ring, fruiting bodies might be present.

**Type 2** Rings of darker green growth with no central dead zone, fruiting bodies might be present.

**Type 3** Rings/ arcs or ribbons with mushrooms present .

Fairy Rings are most obvious during the summer months. Infection will be present in the soil from one year to the next.

There are records of Fairy Rings over 100 years old and up to several hundred meters in diameter.

The various fungi that cause Fairy Rings will thrive in high organic matter soils, buried tree stumps and other organic debris such as thatch and grass debris on the surface.

# PESTS & DISEASE

## Cultural Practice.

Surface Aeration.

Wetting Agent.

Remove Mushrooms.

Fertiliser.

Activities such as spiking, aerating, removal of soil cores and use of wetting agents will improve water penetration into the root zone



# THANK YOU

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