

Women's Pyramid of Football

Ground Grading – Criteria & Summary



Grading Criteria		
Step	Competition	Grading Category
Step 1	FA Women's Premier League – National Division	Grade A
Step 2	FA Women's Premier League – Northern & Southern Divisions	
Step 3	Women's Combination Leagues	Grade B
Step 4	Women's Regional Leagues – Premier Divisions	Grade C
Step 5	Women's Regional Leagues – First Divisions	N/A
Step 6	County Women's Leagues	N/A

Summary Information			
Grade Category	A	B	C
Security Required	1 year tenure agreement	1 year tenure agreement	N/A
Club House	Yes	Yes	N/A
Car Parking	Yes	Yes	N/A
Pitch Perimeter Barrier	Yes	Permanent barrier or roped off	Permanent barrier or roped off
Playing Area	100m x 64m (110yds x 70yds)	95m x 50m (105yds x 55yds)	90m x 45m (100yds x 50yds)
Technical Area / Trainers' Boxes	Yes – 8 seats	Yes – 8 seats	N/A
Floodlighting	Yes	N/A	N/A
Public Address System	Yes	N/A	N/A
Entrance Turnstiles (minimum)	1 turnstile	N/A	N/A
Covered Accommodation	100	N/A	N/A
Dressing Rooms – Players	Separate dressing rooms and showers	Separate dressing rooms and showers	Separate dressing rooms and adequate washing facilities
Dressing Rooms – Match Officials	Separate dressing room	Separate dressing room	Separate dressing room

Women's Pyramid of Football

Ground Grading –

Category A



GRADING CATEGORY – A (Steps 1 & 2)

1. GROUND

The ground must give an overall appearance and impression of being a football ground suitable for the highest levels of the Women's Pyramid of Football.

1.1 Security of Tenure

Where a club does not own the freehold of their ground then evidence of adequate security of tenure for one season must be provided.

1.2 Boundary of Ground

The ground must be enclosed by a permanent boundary, which will prevent spectators from viewing the game from outside the ground.

In certain circumstances one side of the ground, which adjoins private land/property, may be exempt from the need for a permanent boundary.

1.3 Club House

There must be a clubhouse facility either on or near-by to the ground, which should be open on match days to provide refreshments to spectators.

1.4 Car Parking

There should be adequate car parking facilities on or near-by to the ground.

1.5 Pitch Perimeter Barrier

There must be a permanent fixed barrier of sound construction surrounding the pitch on all four sides of the pitch. The recommended height of the barrier is a minimum of 1.1 metres.

The barrier, if other than solid wall type of construction may be infilled. Advertising boards may be acceptable as a means of infill.

There must be a minimum of 1.83 metres, ideally 2 metres between the touchline, goal line and the pitch perimeter barrier.

1.6 Pitch Standards

The playing surface will be grass, unless otherwise authorised by the respective league Management Committee, and must be of a high standard. It must be level and free from surface depressions and excessive undulations.

The maximum slope allowable shall not exceed an even gradient of vertical to horizontal 1 : 41 in any direction.

The playing surface must be maintained to the highest possible standards.

New generation rubber infill pitches will be permitted, with prior consent of the FA Women's Premier League Management Committee, provided that the artificial turf meets the following conditions:

(a) the artificial turf meets any of the applicable FIFA quality standards for artificial turf, currently corresponding to the "FIFA Recommended 2-Star Standard", the "FIFA Recommended 1-Star Standard" in accordance with the "FIFA Quality Concept - Handbook of Test Methods and Requirements for Artificial Turf Football Surfaces" dated February 2005 as well all requirements under the applicable national laws and regulations; and

(b) the artificial turf has passed all the necessary tests (laboratory and field tests) and, in the case of "FIFA Recommended 2-Star Standard" or "FIFA Recommended 1-Star Standard", has obtained the required FIFA licence; and

(c) the artificial turf has passed all the necessary yearly tests confirming that it still meets the applicable FIFA quality standards. Such tests must be conducted by a FIFA accredited laboratory; and

(d) the surface of the artificial turf must be of a green colour.

A Club using a new generation rubber infill pitch must allow their opposition the opportunity to train on the facilities prior to the fixture. Players must not wear boots with blades or metal studs.

1.7 Playing Area

The playing area to be a minimum of 100 metres by 64 metres (110 yards x 70 yards) and should conform to the requirements of the Laws of the Game.

Goal posts and goal net supports should be of professional manufacture and conform to the current safety requirements and to the requirements of the Laws of the Game.

Reference should be made to the Goalpost Safety information published by The Football Association.

1.8 Technical Area

Two covered trainers benches clearly marked "Home" and "Away" are to be provided. They should be at least 3 metres apart. Each box should accommodate at least 8 persons on fixed seats or benches.

Portable trainers' boxes are permitted and must be securely fixed when in use.

A Technical Area, as defined within the Laws of the Game should be marked out round each trainer's box.

1.9 Secure Walkway

Clubs are to provide for safe passage for players and match officials from the dressing rooms to the field of play, which should be adequately stewarded. The use of protection designed products such as retractable tunnels or permanent structures to separate players and spectators are acceptable.

Women's Pyramid of Football Ground Grading – Category A



1.10 Floodlighting

Floodlights must be provided to an average lux reading of 120. No single reading can be less than one quarter of the highest reading so as to ensure an even spread of light.

Reading shall be on a grid of 88 markings (8 across, 11 down) evenly spaced with the outside readings falling on the pitch boundary line. The average of all the readings is taken to be the average illumination level in lux of the floodlighting installation.

The lux values must be tested every two years in accordance with current guidelines by an approved independent contractor.

When new or improved installations are being planned, an average lux reading of 180 should be provided.

1.11 Public Address System

A public address system must be provided with adequate output to convey information to all spectator areas.

1.12 Entrances

There should be at least 1 fully operational turnstile, which must be of the controlled revolving type or a pay box where a charge for entry to the ground can be taken.

1.13 Exits

The location and number of ground exits must be approved by a competent authority and comply with the requirements of the Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds (Green Guide).

All exits must be clearly signed with "running man" signs.

2. SPECTATOR FACILITIES

2.1 Covered Standing/Seated Accommodation

Covered accommodation constructed of timber/steel/brick/concrete or any combination of these materials should be provided for a minimum of 100 spectators (seated or standing).

2.2 Toilets

The following minimum toilet facilities must be provided:

- Two ladies' WCs.
- One gents' WC.
- Two urinals or equivalent.

In addition, there must be at least one hand basin in each Ladies and Gents toilet area with hot and cold running water. Warm air hand driers and/or paper towels with an appropriate dispenser together with a supply of toilet paper must be provided.

All toilet areas to be maintained to a high level of cleanliness.

2.3 Disabled Facilities

The club must be able to accommodate disabled spectators in accordance with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

Reference should be made to the Information/Data Sheets by both The Football Association and the Football Foundation.

3. DRESSING ROOM FACILITIES

All dressing rooms must be secure, heated, well ventilated and free from damp.

3.1 Players

Separate dressing rooms must be provided for both teams within the enclosed area of the ground. Existing dressing rooms dimensions will be in order provided that they are of a minimum of 12 square metres. However, clubs wishing to progress should be aware of the need to increase to a minimum of 18 square metres. Where clubs are planning to build new changing rooms, these must be planned to be a minimum size of 18 square metres, excluding shower and toilet areas.

Each dressing room must have the following:

- A shower area comprising of at least four showerheads.
- At least one WC and one wash hand basin together with a warm air hand drier and/or paper towels in an appropriate dispenser.
- Hot and cold running water.
- A treatment table in each dressing room, unless there is a separate medical room.

3.2 Match Officials

Separate dressing rooms must be provided for match officials (including separate changing accommodation for both male and female match officials), the minimum size of which shall be four square metres excluding shower and toilet areas.

Each dressing room must have the following:

- At least one shower.
- At least one WC and one wash hand basin together with a warm air hand drier and/or paper towels in an appropriate dispenser.
- An audible electronic warning device (bell or buzzer) located in the match official's dressing room, which is linked to the player's dressing rooms.

All dressing room areas to be maintained to a high level of cleanliness and secure on match days.

4 Press Facilities

Facilities for the press should be available when required.

Women's Pyramid of Football

Ground Grading –

Category B



GRADING CATEGORY – B (Step 3)

1. GROUND

The ground must give an overall appearance and impression of being a football ground suitable for the highest levels of the Women's Pyramid of Football.

1.1 Security of Tenure

Where a club does not own the freehold of their ground then evidence of adequate security of tenure for one season must be provided.

1.2 Club House

There must be a clubhouse facility either on or near-by to the ground, which should be open on match days to provide refreshments to spectators.

1.3 Car Parking

There should be adequate car parking facilities on or near-by to the ground.

1.4 Pitch Perimeter Barrier

There should be a permanent fixed barrier of sound construction surrounding the pitch on all four sides of the pitch. The recommended height of the barrier is a minimum of 1.1 metres.

Where no permanent fixed barrier is available, the pitch must be roped off.

1.5 Pitch Standards

The playing surface will be grass, unless otherwise authorised by the respective league Management Committee, and must be of a high standard. It must be level and free from surface depressions and excessive undulations.

The maximum slope allowable shall not exceed an even gradient of vertical to horizontal 1 : 41 in any direction.

The playing surface must be maintained to the highest possible standards.

New generation rubber infill pitches will be permitted, with prior consent of the FA Women's Football Committee and the appropriate League Management Committee, provided that the artificial turf meets the following conditions:

(a) the artificial turf meets any of the applicable FIFA quality standards for artificial turf, currently corresponding to the "FIFA Recommended 2-Star Standard", the "FIFA Recommended 1-Star Standard" in accordance with the "FIFA Quality Concept - Handbook of Test Methods and Requirements for Artificial Turf Football Surfaces" dated February 2005 as well all requirements under the applicable national laws and regulations; and

(b) the artificial turf has passed all the necessary tests (laboratory and field tests) and, in the case of "FIFA Recommended 2-Star Standard" or "FIFA Recommended 1-Star Standard", has obtained the required FIFA licence; and

(c) the artificial turf has passed all the necessary yearly tests confirming that it still meets the applicable FIFA quality standards. Such tests must be conducted by a FIFA accredited laboratory; and

(d) the surface of the artificial turf must be of a green colour.

A Club using a new generation rubber infill pitch must allow their opposition the opportunity to train on the facilities prior to the fixture. Players must not wear boots with blades or metal studs.

1.6 Playing Area

The playing area to be a minimum of 95 metres by 50 metres (105 yards x 55 yards) and should conform to the requirements of the Laws of the Game.

Goal posts and goal net supports should be of professional manufacture and conform to the current safety requirements and to the requirements of the Laws of the Game.

Reference should be made to the Goalpost Safety information published by The Football Association.

1.7 Technical Area

Two covered trainers benches clearly marked "Home" and "Away" are to be provided. They should be at least 3 metres apart. Each box should accommodate at least 8 persons on fixed seats or benches.

Portable trainers' boxes are permitted and must be securely fixed when in use.

A Technical Area, as defined within the Laws of the Game should be marked out round each trainer's box.

1.8 Secure Walkway

Clubs are to provide for safe passage for players and match officials from the dressing rooms to the field of play.

Women's Pyramid of Football Ground Grading – Category B



2. DRESSING ROOM FACILITIES

All dressing rooms must be secure, heated, well ventilated and free from damp.

2.1 Players

Separate dressing rooms must be provided for both teams within the enclosed area of the ground. Existing dressing rooms dimensions will be in order provided that they are of a minimum of 12 square metres. However, clubs wishing to progress should be aware of the need to increase to a minimum of 18 square metres. Where clubs are planning to build new changing rooms, these must be planned to be a minimum size of 18 square metres, excluding shower and toilet areas.

Each dressing room must have the following:

- A shower area comprising of at least four showerheads.
- At least one WC and one wash hand basin together with a warm air hand drier and/or paper towels in an appropriate dispenser.
- Hot and cold running water.
- A treatment table in each dressing room, unless there is a separate medical room.

2.2 Match Officials

Separate dressing rooms must be provided for match officials (including separate changing accommodation for both male and female match officials), the minimum size of which shall be four square metres excluding shower and toilet areas.

Each dressing room must have the following:

- At least one shower.
- At least one WC and one wash hand basin together with a warm air hand drier and/or paper towels in an appropriate dispenser.
- An audible electronic warning device (bell or buzzer) located in the match official's dressing room, which is linked to the player's dressing rooms.

Women's Pyramid of Football

Ground Grading –

Category C



GRADING CATEGORY – C (Step 4)

1. GROUND

The ground must be suitable for staging a football match in the premier division of the Regional League structure.

A recreation ground or public park will be suitable provided that the criteria set out below can be met.

1.1 Security of Tenure

Where a club does not own the freehold of their ground then evidence of adequate security of tenure for one season must be provided.

1.2 Club House

Where there is a clubhouse facility, this should be within walking distance of the pitch.

1.3 Car Parking

Whilst car parking is not necessary where possible, there should be adequate car parking facilities on or near-by to the ground.

1.4 Pitch Perimeter Barrier

There should be a permanent fixed barrier of sound construction. The recommended height of the barrier is a minimum of 1.1 metres.

Where no permanent fixed barrier is available, the pitch must be roped off.

Clubs moving from Step 5 to Step 4 of the Women's Pyramid of Football must comply with this requirement by the commencement of the following season.

1.5 Pitch Standards

The playing surface will be grass, unless otherwise authorised by the respective league Management Committee, and must be of a high standard. It must be level and free from surface depressions and excessive undulations.

The playing surface must be maintained to the highest possible standards.

New generation rubber infill pitches will be permitted, with prior consent of the FA Women's Football Committee and the appropriate league management committee, provided that the artificial turf meets the following conditions:

(a) the artificial turf meets any of the applicable FIFA quality standards for artificial turf, currently corresponding to the "FIFA

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(b) the artificial turf has passed all the necessary tests (laboratory and field tests) and, in the case of "FIFA Recommended 2-Star Standard" or "FIFA Recommended 1-Star Standard", has obtained the required FIFA licence; and

(c) the artificial turf has passed all the necessary yearly tests confirming that it still meets the applicable FIFA quality standards. Such tests must be conducted by a FIFA accredited laboratory; and

(d) the surface of the artificial turf must be of a green colour.

A Club using a new generation rubber infill pitch must allow their opposition the opportunity to train on the facilities prior to the fixture. Players must not wear boots with blades or metal studs.

1.6 Playing Area

The playing area to be a minimum of 90 metres by 45 metres (100 yards x 50 yards) and should conform to the requirements of the Laws of the Game.

Goal posts and goal net supports should be of professional manufacture and conform to the current safety requirements and to the requirements of the Laws of the Game.

Reference should be made to the Goalpost Safety information published by The Football Association.

2. DRESSING ROOM FACILITIES

All dressing rooms must be secure, heated, well ventilated and free from damp

2.1 Players

Separate dressing rooms must be provided for both teams within the enclosed area of the ground.

There must be adequate washing and toilet facilities available with hot and cold running water.

2.2 Match Officials

Separate dressing rooms must be provided for match officials.