



Grass Pitch Maintenance – Contractor Services Funding

Criteria

- A tapered six-year funding initiative to improve grass pitches to a “Good” standard or above.
- Only available for clubs and leagues – Local Authorities and other site operators must have a club or league partner to be eligible.
- The applicant must have a grass pitch assessment report from the IOG Regional Pitch Advisor (RPA), which clearly recommends the additional maintenance works required. For more details please visit <http://www.essexfa.com/leagues-and-clubs/finance/grants-and-funding>
- Only pitches rated by the IOG as “basic” or “poor” standard are eligible, with the aim 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 2020) showing the condition of their pitches three times per year over the following ten-year period.

Funding Breakdown

- A tapered 67% grant towards the work over a six-year period.
- Depending on the size of the pitch being invested in, up to £2,100 (excluding VAT) per full size 11v11 pitch.
- There is no maximum number of pitches that can be funded, but 9v9 and mini-soccer pitches will receive a reduced rate of funding.
- Where sites have more than ten pitches, a discussion between the Foundation and Essex County FA will take place regarding the strategic importance of the site.
- As an example, a grant would be paid as follows over six years for one 11v11 pitch 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
Total	67%/£8,400	33% / £4,200

Tenure

- 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 can still apply for funding if the owner of the site provides written consent for the works to be carried out, using the Football Foundation pro forma.

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

Documents Required

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

- Grass Pitch Assessment Report from the IOG RPA.
- Maintenance Report from the IOG RPA.
- Evidence of the leasehold or freehold, or written consent of the landowner via the pro forma.
- The applicant will have to confirm as part of the application form that they will provide the balance of partnership funding.

Application

- Accessed via: www.footballfoundation.org.uk/looking-for-funding
 1. **Select “Get Started”**
 2. **Select “Pitch Improvement Revenue Grant”**
 3. **Select “The facility upgrades I require are only minor”**
 4. Log in if previously applied for funding or register
 5. Apply for new grant
 6. Start application process
 7. Complete the application form

Application sections

1. Projection Selection
 - Project title
 - Project items e.g. grass pitch maintenance – contracted services
 - Grass Pitch Assessment Report
2. Organisation
 - Type of organisation
 - Affiliation information
 - Organisation details
 - Project site details e.g. home ground
 - Joint applicants?
 - VAT registered?
3. Project Site
 - Address of site
 - Site Ownership
4. Grass Pitch Maintenance – contracted services
 - VAT recovery?
 - IOG Pitch Rating
 - Add pitches and costings
 - Your project details
 - Partnership funding
5. Grant Summary
6. Declaration

Assessment Timescales

- Upon submission and receipt of supporting documentation, the club will receive confirmation that the application has been logged.
- The assessment of the application will typically take around two weeks for grants of less than £50,000.
- For grants of excess £50,000 the timescales will be four weeks.
- The club will then receive a notification by email that your decision letter is available to download via **the clubs account on the Football Foundation's website.**
- **The equipment should not be purchased until the grant T&C's have been accepted.**

Multiple Applications

- If the club are looking at multiple funding opportunities, please contact Essex County FA prior to applying e.g. grass pitch maintenance equipment and grass pitch maintenance fund.

Essex FA Support

Please contact Nick Emery (County Development Manager) nick.emery@essexfa.com or Sean Harris (Parklife Development Officer) sean.harris@essexfa.com