

PITCH IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME



Sussex FA are working with The FA Facilities and Investment Team and Institute of Groundsmanship to develop a grass pitch maintenance service which can be utilised by grassroots clubs, schools, colleges and councils with the simple aim of improving the quality of grass pitches.

The need for this service is more relevant now than ever, given 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 Sussex we are working with the IOG South East Regional Pitch Advisor, Darren Symonds, to provide visits to local organisations in the county – and there are **no restrictions** about who can apply.

Programme Benefits

- Expert advice and professional grass pitch maintenance programme
- Agronomist report
- Access to discounts on machinery & materials
- Access to Football Foundation grant support for pitch development and/or maintenance equipment
- Dedicated 'natural turf groundsmanship' website www.groundsmanship.co.uk
- Access to training for Club Groundsman
- IOG Training Courses (and optional membership)
- Introduction to professional ground maintenance companies

Programme Process

- Clubs complete a Visit Request Form and forward to the Sussex FA
- Sussex FA will co-ordinate a date/time for the Regional Pitch Advisor to complete the first visit and produce a detailed report with recommendations and actions for the club
- The club follows recommendation and actions in order to improve the pitch/pitches
- Feedback sought from the club following agreed milestones and timescales, based on the recommendations provided by the Regional Pitch Advisor
- Should the maintenance recommendations not result in an improved pitch or surface, there may be some further improvement work required on site for which the club can discuss funding options with the Sussex FA
- Sussex FA will arrange a second visit for the Regional Pitch Advisor, approx. 12 months after the first report, to gauge whether interventions have been successful and the standard of playing surfaces have improved
- The Regional Pitch Advisor completes a second report with further recommendations, advice and actions

Programme Costs & Payments and Funding Guidance

The cost for the entire programme is just £150 (a substantial cost saving compared to an independent report and maintenance programme). Sussex FA will invoice the club with payment due 14 days prior to the first visit.

If there are areas in need of investment, such as machinery or drainage, we will support you to use the report as the basis for funding applications to bodies such as the Football Foundation.

Further Details

Visit the Sussex FA website: www.sussexfa.com

Contact: Adrian Howell (Stadium Manager), Sussex County FA
Email: adrian.howell@sussexfa.com
Tel: 01903-768575

