

Stadium Accreditation Committee

Stadium Accreditation criteria amendments – 2026/27 season

Page	Criterion	Proposed amendment			
N/A	N/A	Any reference to “2025/26 season” to be amended to “2026/27 season”			
4	Introduction (footnote)	<u>Note: Pitch perimeter barriers are the subject of an ongoing review. Any requirements or recommendations relating to pitch perimeter barriers within the Stadium Accreditation Criteria are subject to change.</u>			
5	N/A	* Whilst Tier 5 Leagues have been aligned to Grade 7, a bench-marking exercise will initially take place rather than to proceed with a strict compliance in the 2025/26 season.			
8	N/A	[in the spectator ground toilets section] <table border="1"> <tr> <td>7</td><td>Two urinals & one WC</td><td>Two<u>One</u> WCs</td></tr> </table>	7	Two urinals & one WC	Two <u>One</u> WCs
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12	1.2 – Capacity	[First para] ... Where a Club is confirmed as promoted <u>seeking promotion</u> to Step 2, they must submit an initial capacity calculation (carried out in accordance with the procedure above) to The National League <u>and the Stadium Accreditation team</u> by 31st May <u>March</u> in the season the Club is promoted <u>seeking promotion</u>. ...			

21	1.6 – Pitch Perimeter Barrier	<u><i>Note: Pitch perimeter barriers are the subject of an ongoing review. Any requirements or recommendations relating to pitch perimeter barriers within the Stadium Accreditation Criteria are subject to change.</i></u> Subject to the provisions detailed below, there must be a permanent fixed barrier ideally 1.1 metres high (save for where a lowered barrier is required for sightline purposes) as measured from the spectator side, of sound construction (e.g. concrete and steel) and free from all sharp edges, surrounding the pitch on all sides that may be occupied by spectators. <u>Solid brick, breeze block or concrete barriers are not permitted. Existing solid brick, breeze block or concrete barriers must, as soon as reasonably practicable, be removed or, if they cannot be removed (e.g. because they are retaining walls), covered with suitable protection.</u> ... <table><tr><th colspan="2">GRADE-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS</th></tr><tr><td>Grade 1</td><td> The barrier, if other than solid wall type of construction, must be infilled so that the ball cannot pass through or under it. Plastic multi-purpose hi-vis fencing is not considered suitable for infill. * There must be no less than 2.25 metres (and ideally there should be 2.75 metres) between the touchline, goal line and the pitch perimeter barrier. </td></tr><tr><td>Grade 2</td><td rowspan="2"> The barrier, if other than solid wall type of construction, must be infilled so that the ball cannot pass through or under it. </td></tr><tr><td>Grade 3</td></tr></table>	GRADE-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS		Grade 1	The barrier, if other than solid wall type of construction, must be infilled so that the ball cannot pass through or under it. Plastic multi-purpose hi-vis fencing is not considered suitable for infill. * There must be no less than 2.25 metres (and ideally there should be 2.75 metres) between the touchline, goal line and the pitch perimeter barrier.	Grade 2	The barrier, if other than solid wall type of construction, must be infilled so that the ball cannot pass through or under it.	Grade 3
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23	1.7 – Pitch Standards	... Spare goal storage Where a ground has spare portable goals these must be stored in a dedicated goal storage area and not left on the pitch run-off. Any such storage must not affect spectator viewing or interfere with the players’ eye line. <u>Goal posts (11v11 pitch)</u> <u>From 1 August 2026, any new build Artificial Grass Pitches, conversions from grass to Artificial Grass Pitches or where the Artificial Grass Pitch surface is being completely replaced, portable/non-socketed goals will not be permitted for NLS and/or WFP matches.</u> <u>It is strongly advised that for all Artificial Grass Pitches that were installed on 31 July 2026 or earlier, or on grass pitches, socketed goals are used.</u> ...		
29	1.10 – Secure Walkway	The use of protection designed products such as permanent structures or retractable tunnels to separate players and spectators is recommended, and should be secured in place when in use.		

		<u>At Grades 5, 6 and 7 only, a post and chain fence or similar is permitted. Club's however need to note that this will not be permissible for Grade 4 and above.</u>						
31	1.11 – Floodlighting	Floodlights must be provided to an average lux in accordance with the requirements in the table below. <u>There must be an ability to use these floodlights until the completion of both midweek and weekend matches, including the possibility of extra time and kicks from the penalty mark.</u> ...						
35	1.16 – TV Gantry/ Camera platform	A permanent, <u>covered</u> TV gantry or camera platform that meets the following minimum criteria: ...						
40	2.2 – Press Seating	<table><tr><th colspan="2">GRADE-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS</th></tr><tr><td>Grade 1</td><td>A minimum of 12 seats for the press must be provided. <u>Where a new stand is built that includes a new press box, step-free access routes should be provided.</u></td></tr><tr><td>Grade 2</td><td>A minimum of 6 seats for the press must be provided. <u>Where a new stand is built that includes a new press box, step-free access routes should be provided.</u></td></tr></table> ...	GRADE-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS		Grade 1	A minimum of 12 seats for the press must be provided. <u>Where a new stand is built that includes a new press box, step-free access routes should be provided.</u>	Grade 2	A minimum of 6 seats for the press must be provided. <u>Where a new stand is built that includes a new press box, step-free access routes should be provided.</u>
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47	2.5.1 – Directors/ Committee/ Guests	The following provisions must be made in relation to Refreshment Facilities for Directors/Committee Members/Guests <u>(note: the number of persons listed below are to be comfortably seated with room for the circulation of those present):</u> ...						

50	3.1 – Players	Separate dressing rooms must be provided for both teams within the enclosed area of the ground. The dressing rooms must be of sound construction and be of a permanent nature. Each dressing room must have adequate seating (which can be bench or individual seating – in the case of bench seating this equates to 500mm per person) – i.e. that as a minimum, each player named on the team sheet can be seated at the same time. ... The following is required for each Grade, within each home and away dressing room: ...
52	3.2 – Match Officials	All dressing room areas must be maintained to a high standard of cleanliness and be heated, well-ventilated and secure on matchdays. The dressing room must have adequate seating (which can be bench or individual seating – in the case of bench seating this equates to 500mm per person) – i.e. that as a minimum, each match official can be seated at the same time.