

Requirements for artificial grass pitches used in all FA competitions with the exception of The FA Challenge Cup (all rounds) and FA Youth Cup (rounds proper only).

Artificial grass pitches may be used in FA competitions provided the pitch is listed on The FA's Register of Artificial Grass Pitches.

The register is maintained by The FA to ensure that specific artificial grass Pitch installations have the ball/surface and player/surface interactions that FIFA have specified as being suitable for football. The register is not a list of approved or certified pitches or products and no FA endorsement of any pitch or product appearing on the list is given or implied.

To appear on the register a pitch shall satisfy the following conditions:

Condition 1 – performance requirements

The pitch shall:

- a be surfaced with an artificial grass surface that has laboratory type approval with the FIFA Quality Concept *Handbook of Requirements for Football Turf* (March 2006 edition) One or Two Star Category or the *International Artificial Turf Standard* (March 2006 edition);
- b have satisfied the performance and construction requirements of Table 1 at the time of its last annual assessment.

Table 1 – performance requirements required at annual test				
Characteristic		Test Method	Requirement	
i	Vertical ball rebound	FIFA 01	60cm - 100cm	
ii	Angle ball rebound	FIFA 02	Dry surface	45% -70%
			Wet surface	45% -80%
iii	Ball roll	FIFA 03	4m – 10m	
iv	Shock Absorption	FIFA 04	55% - 70%	
v	Vertical Deformation	FIFA 05	4mm – 9mm	
vi	Rotational Resistance	FIFA 06	25Nm – 50Nm	
vii	Linear Friction – Stud Deceleration Value	FIFA 07	3.0g - 6.0 g	
viii	Linear Friction - Stud Slide Value	FIFA 08	120 – 220	
ix	Water permeability	EN 12616	> 180mm/h	
x	Surface regularity	EN 13036 3m straightedge	<10mm	

	During the field test programme the Test Laboratory shall make a visual inspection of the playing surface to ensure there are no obvious defects considered to be hazardous to players
xi	<p>Important note:</p> <p>The visual inspection undertaken by the Test Laboratory does not constitute a formal site audit and does not remove the legal responsibility of the club or pitch operator to ensure the field is safe and fit for use.</p>

- Note 1 As described in the FIFA *Handbook of Test Methods for Football Turf* (March 2006 edition).
- Note 2 Specific installations that have pitches carrying the *FIFA Recommended Two Star* designation will automatically satisfy these requirements, subject to compliance with Note 6.
- Note 3 Pitches carrying the *FIFA Recommended One Star* designation during the initial twelve months following the FIFA pitch test will automatically satisfy these requirements subject to compliance with Note 6.
- Note 4 Pitches certified as meeting the field test requirements of the *International Artificial Turf Standard* during the initial twelve months following the IATS pitch test will automatically satisfy these requirements subject to compliance with Note 6.
- Note 5 Tests shall be under taken in the six positions specified in the FIFA *Handbook of Test Methods for Football Turf*.
- Note 6 Testing shall be undertaken during the period May to July immediately prior to commencement of the playing season.
- Note 7 The results of the test programme (including any FIFA or IATS) tests shall be reported on a FA test report (see Appendix A), which shall be submitted to The FA for registration prior to commencement of the season.
- Note 8 When an application is made for a pitch to be registered for the first time the application shall include a copy of the FIFA Quality Concept or IATS laboratory test report.
- Note 9 Registration of the Pitch by The FA is for twelve months or until the artificial grass surface is replaced, whichever comes first, subject to a pitch showing continued compliance with Table 1 or Note 10 during any spot checks undertaken by The FA during the twelve month period.
- Note 10 If during an FA spot check a pitch is found to fail requirements iv, v, vi, vii, viii or xi of Table 1 it shall be not be used in the competition with immediate effect and until appropriate remedial works/rejuvenation/resurfacing have been undertaken and the pitch has been fully retested and shown to have regained acceptable performance.
- Note 11 If during an FA spot check a pitch is found to The FAil requirements of Table 1 but fall within the ranges detailed in Table 2 The FA may, at its

discretion, allow continued use of the pitch for the remainder of the playing season. At the end of the season all necessary remedial works (including resurfacing) shall be undertaken to enable the pitch to comply with the annual test requirements.

Note 12 Pitches shall be tested by laboratories accredited by FIFA to undertake field tests under the FIFA Quality Concept. Details of authorised laboratories may be obtained from The FA or FIFA.

Note 13 Testing of a pitch and applying to The FA for registration of the pitch is the responsibility of the Club wishing to play on it. In the event of more than one Club or team playing on the same pitch each Club or team is required to apply for the pitch to be registered for their use, although the pitch need only be tested once.

Table 2 – performance requirements: permitted deviations from Table 1 occurring during the playing season

Characteristic		Test Method ¹	Requirement
i	Vertical ball rebound	FIFA 01	60cm - 120cm
li	Angle ball rebound	FIFA 02	40% - 80%
lii	Ball roll	FIFA 03	4m – 12m
lv	Water permeability	EN 12616	> 50 mm/h
V	Surface regularity	EN 13036 3m straightedge	<15mm

Note 14 All costs incurred in the annual testing of a pitch (test laboratory fee, remedial works etc) are the responsibility of the Club. The FA makes no additional charge for the registration of a pitch.

Condition 2

The artificial grass pitch, including run-offs, shall be one continuous playing surface. It shall be green in colour. All line markings shall be white and in accordance with the Laws of Association Football. Any other temporary lines must be removed prior to any FA competition match. The manufacturer of the carpet should be contacted to advise on the painting of temporary lines and the correct method of removing such lines.

Condition 3

The home Club shall allow their opposition the opportunity to use the pitch and train on the surface two hours prior to the kick-off and there must not be another game or event on the pitch following the training period. If it is intended to water the pitch before the match the pitch shall also be watered prior to the training period.

Condition 4

The Club using the artificial grass pitch shall advise their opposition at least 10 days before the match of limitations or recommendations on the types of boot or stud that may be used on the surface.

Condition 5

The Club shall provide all necessary assistance and data relating to player assessments, injury records, maintenance etc as requested by The FA, FIFA or UEFA.

Appendix A – FA Test Report: artificial grass pitches for use in FA competitions

Type of test	Initial		Retest					
Club								
Stadium or pitch address								
Club contact								
Tel.								
Email								
Artificial grass surface name*								
Artificial grass surface product code*								
Date pitch installed								
Date of last test (if applicable)								
Test conditions								
Date(s) of test	Day 1			Day 2				
Surface condition (dry or wet)								
Surface temperature (°C)	Min.		Max.		Min.		Max.	
Humidity (%RH)	Min.		Max.		Min.		Max.	
Maximum wind speed	Ball rebound tests				Ball roll tests			
	m/s				m/s			
Name of test laboratory								
Test laboratory project reference								

* as given on FIFA / IATS Test report

Project No:

Site name:

Date of report:

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Test results

Property	Required range	Test Position						Pass / fail
		1	2	3	4	5	6	
Vertical ball rebound	0.60 m – 1.00 m							
Angle ball rebound	Dry 45 % - 70 %							
	Wet 45 % - 80 %							
Ball roll	4.0 m – 10.0 m							
Shock absorption	55 % - 70 %							
Deformation	4.0 mm – 9.0 mm							
Rotational resistance	25 Nm – 50 Nm							
Linear friction Stud deceleration	3.0 g – 6.0 g							
Linear friction Stud slide	120 – 220							
Water permeability	>180 mm/h							
Number of surface undulations exceeding 10mm								

Project No:

Site name:

Date of report:

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Test report authorised by:

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Laboratory Director

Date:

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The completed test report shall be sent to:

Mr Steve Williams
National Facilities Manager
The Football Association
25 Soho Square
London
W1D 4 FA

Not less than one week before the playing season commences.

For initial pitch tests a copy of the FIFA or IATS laboratory report for the installed surface shall be attached to this test report.

Project No:

Site name:

Date of report:

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