

Parks & Green Spaces Strategy Typology Quality Assessment Advisory Note

Typology: - Active Sports Space - Seasonal

Date Assessed by

Version 6

Name of Park/Green Space _____

Active seasonal sports spaces are pitches that are hired out to teams to play football, rugby or cricket in season. They will usually be within another typology (usually informal green space). As well as the pitch marking and general condition and maintenance of turf and goal posts etc, the setting, design, facilities, condition and maintenance of changing room buildings are an important factor that needs to be assessed when assessing seasonal sport, although detailed surveys or risk assessments are not expected to be undertaken.

Do not score individual questions. Simply tick each as poor, fair, good etc. Then enter a maximum of 10 points for each of provision, condition and maintenance based on the following: -

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		Very Poor	Poor		Fair		Good	Very good	Excellent	Exceptional	

Issues to consider when making the assessment: -

Provision (the user experience & quality of facilities)		Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Very good	Excellent	Exceptional
1	Have the pitches been well integrated into the overall green space, in terms of landform and any re-grading that may have been necessary to accommodate the levelling required for pitch provision?							
2	Is the site open and level and of a suitable size for good quality sports provision, or is it sloping, shaded, uneven or boggy ground?							
3	Is there sufficient tree planting on perimeter areas to provide shelter from prevailing winds and help to integrate the pitches into the overall landscape?							
4	Are pitches aligned comfortably in relation to the low winter sun (ie east-west rather than north-south)?							
5	Is there sufficient distance from residential properties, highways and other green space activity to minimise the risk of danger or nuisance (e.g. from balls or noise)?							

Condition (cyclical maintenance) ie the standard of repairs of items										
	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Very good	Excellent	Exceptional			
1 Are pitch(es) fit for purpose, i.e. flat and level with no settlement/ subsidence?										
2 Is there a fully effective pitch surface drainage and/or subsurface system or is there evidence of waterlogging?										
3 Is the topsoil depth sufficient and texture free draining and conducive to consistent grass sward?										
4 Are grass surfaces in a good condition with good healthy grass cover?										
5 Is there at least 90% grass cover in high wear areas or are they compacted, worn or muddy (especially around goal mouths, centre circle and other high use areas)?										
6 Is the grass mix suitable for high wear areas such as sports fields?										
Changing Rooms/Pavilions - Condition	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Very good	Excellent	Exceptional			
1 Is the pavilion/changing room building in a safe and secure condition, weatherproof and painted?										
2 Do water, gas, electricity, heating and other mechanical plant in the building work satisfactorily?										
3 Have fire safety checks been carried out and fire extinguishers checked within correct timescales?										
4 Is the building in optimum, 'as new' structural condition and generally sound with only routine maintenance needed?										
5 Is the external brickwork and pointing of the building sound?										
6 Is the building free from vandalism or other damage?										
7 Is the building operating efficiently as intended?										
Overall score for Condition (1-10)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Very Poor	Poor		Fair		Good	Very good	Excellent	Exceptional	

	Maintenance (how well-managed is the area in terms of regular maintenance?)							
		Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Very good	Excellent	Exceptional
1	Is the site well-maintained and free of vehicle damage, dog fouling, sharps, glass and litter, and have litter bins been emptied or are they full or overflowing?							
2	Are the pitches regularly spiked and aerated to give a free draining surface or is the surface holding water?							
3	Is the sward healthy and free of weeds, moss, algae and pests and diseases, with at least 90% coverage in high wear areas such as goalmouths, and are cricket wickets free of worm casts?							
4	Has grass on pitches/wickets been cut regularly to the appropriate length, including for line markings?							
5	Are pitches marked out in season, visible from both directions and to the correct dimensions, square and straight?							
6	Is harrowing carried out to eliminate divots or clods, and rolling carried out to ameliorate frost heave and stimulate dense grass growth?							
7	Has regular scarification been carried out or is there significant thatch build up?							
8	Is there regular irrigation during dry weather or is the sward suffering from drought?							
9	Are goal posts upright, soundly installed, safe and well painted. Are sockets covered when posts removed? Are cricket sight screens and score boards clean and well painted?							
10	Are all notice boards and user-information clean of dirt and graffiti, with information that is up to date and relevant?							

Maintenance - Pavilions/Changing Rooms		Very Poor	Poor			Fair	Good	Very good	Excellent	Exceptional	
1	Are buildings/pavilions/changing rooms' mechanical and electrical plant, including lighting, in optimum order and the subject of a regular routine maintenance regime, including gas/electric/fire safety checks carried out (evidenced via certification to demonstrate that they are compliant with current standards)?										
2	Are WCs, showers and changing rooms all clean and in good order, provisioned and free from blockages?										
3	Is external paintwork on pavilions/changing room buildings fresh and effectively protecting surfaces against weathering?										
4	Do buildings have clearly signed escape routes from hazards?										
5	Are buildings' security systems, including alarms functional and locks sound?										
6	Are buildings externally and internally clean and free of damage, litter and graffiti?										
Overall score for maintenance (1-10)		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		Very Poor	Poor			Fair	Good	Very good	Excellent	Exceptional	