

## MAINTENANCE OVERVIEW

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The following document is supported by the FieldTurf maintenance guidelines

Proper maintenance of synthetic pitches makes a significant contribution to player enjoyment and to the longevity of the facility. The detailed maintenance regime for a particular synthetic turf pitch will depend on the precise turf installed, types of sport played, frequency of use and more site specific factors.

It is widely recognised that an appropriate and disciplined maintenance regime is critical to the long-term quality of any synthetic turf facility. The capital cost of installing a synthetic turf pitch is significant; maximising the return on your original capital investment will be at the forefront of any sound business case for the facility. The general misconception that artificial turf pitches are maintenance free is slowly becoming a thing of the past.

Emphasis on the need for regular maintenance, monitoring and inspections is recognised by The FA, IRB (International Rugby Board), FIH (International Hockey Federation), EHB (England Hockey Board) and ITF (International Tennis Federation) and will be a condition within the manufacturer's warranty. Maintenance is recognised as fundamental to ensuring pitch performance and safety for players, it cannot be ignored.

It is generally recognised that a major advantage of synthetic turf over natural grass is the greatly reduced maintenance required. However, **a reduction in maintenance does not mean no maintenance**. It is extremely important to realise that sufficient maintenance must be performed to ensure the pitch is kept in top condition. This applies both to filled and unfilled pitches.

It is generally recognised that a well-maintained pitch enjoys the following advantages:

- *Optimising playing conditions*
- *Minimising potential for injury*
- *Maximising longevity of the pitch*
- *Ongoing maintenance will be an integral part of the manufacturer's warranty*

### Maintenance Servicing

The recommended frequency of the maintenance depends on the level of usage. The general rule is one hour of maintenance is required for every ten hours of use, acting on this we would recommend a specialist power-brushing and decompaction visit be carried out covering the following works:

- *Power brushing including filtering the top layer of infill to reduce contamination*
- *Decompaction, breaking up the infill reducing the need to top up as regularly, also maximising the player experience*
- *Weed killing to the perimeter*
- *Minor seam repairs, up to 20 meters a visit*
- *Patch repairs*
- *Minor sand / rubber top ups*
- *Litter pick*
- *Leaf blow the surface and surrounding areas*
- *Check all fencing, goals and equipment and report any issues*

### Hours of Use

Hours of use is calculated based on 22 players per hour on the pitch. Therefore if a pitch has 44 players this equates to 2 hours of use

So if the pitch is used on average by 40 players for 30 hours per week this equates to 55 hours of actual use which would result in the pitch requiring approximately 5 hours of maintenance for a full size pitch. Based on the size of the 3G at Fleet based on the

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proposed small sided games and levels of use the pitch will require around 1 hour of maintenance per week.

Included in the Football Foundation funded project will be a brushing machine to groom the rubber infill. Weekly brushing in line with our maintenance guidelines should be undertaken weekly for the appropriate amount of time. Training will be provided to ensure the client knows how to use the machines and how to record the maintenance completed. It is vital the maintenance log provided is completed and kept safe.

**External Maintenance** – it is strongly recommended at least a quarterly maintenance service visit outlined above is undertaken.

### Costs

- **Monthly visit from up to £350 plus VAT per visit**

It is advised that during the life of the pitch the following will be required which will be determined by the level of use and the level of in house maintenance undertaken on the surface.

During the life of the surface it is very likely it will require the rubber SBR infill to be topped up. It is vital that the infill levels are regularly checked to ensure this is undertaken at the appropriate time to prevent the free pile from becoming flat which will impact on the performance of the surface. The cost of the rubber top up will be in the region of

- **Rubber top up cost from £1,000-£2,000**

This figure will be determined by the amount of rubber required which will be advised on any a maintenance inspection reports.

Based on a quarterly visit and no more than 4 Tonne of rubber required it would cost around £1,600 per year plus VAT to have the pitch maintained by an external maintenance company across the life of the pitch. Note this figure does not take into consider inflation.

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