

GROUND-GRADING GUIDANCE AND CRITERIA DOCUMENT

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

17 NOVEMBER 2022 UPDATE



FOR ALL

The previously circulated Ground-Grading Guidance and Criteria document has been created with the upmost care and attention to detail, however, following feedback from our FA Independent Grading Inspectors and ground-grading colleagues from NLS Leagues, it is necessary to make some amendments to this document, and so we bring the following to your attention. PLEASE NOTE: the following amendments apply to the 2022-23 season:

Page	Section	From	To																																		
7	Seated Stands columns	The two columns labelled 'Seated' and 'Standing' have been amended in order to provide absolute clarity:																																			
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Seated</th> <th>Standing</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>500</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>250</td> <td>250</td> </tr> <tr> <td>250</td> <td>250</td> </tr> <tr> <td>150</td> <td>150</td> </tr> <tr> <td>100</td> <td>100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>50</td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>-</td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Seated	Standing	500	0	250	250	250	250	150	150	100	100	50	50	-	50	-	-	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Total min. covered accom</th> <th>Of which is seated (min)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>500</td> <td>500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>500</td> <td>250</td> </tr> <tr> <td>500</td> <td>250</td> </tr> <tr> <td>300</td> <td>150</td> </tr> <tr> <td>200</td> <td>100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>100</td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>50</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Total min. covered accom	Of which is seated (min)	500	500	500	250	500	250	300	150	200	100	100	50	50	-
Seated	Standing																																				
500	0																																				
250	250																																				
250	250																																				
150	150																																				
100	100																																				
50	50																																				
-	50																																				
-	-																																				
Total min. covered accom	Of which is seated (min)																																				
500	500																																				
500	250																																				
500	250																																				
300	150																																				
200	100																																				
100	50																																				
50	-																																				

8	Spectator ground toilets	<p>Clarity has been given as to the high-level requirements of ground toilets. Greater detail about where the toilets are located appears on p40-42.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="582 344 1285 1152"> <thead> <tr> <th>Grade</th> <th>Spectator Ground Toilets</th> <th>Spectator Ground Toilets</th> </tr> <tr> <th><i>Previous Grade in brackets</i></th> <th><i>Male</i></th> <th><i>Female</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1 (A)</td> <td>Four urinals – two WCs in two areas of the ground</td> <td>Two WCs in two areas of the ground</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 (B)</td> <td>Four urinals – two WCs</td> <td>Two WCs</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 (C)</td> <td>Four urinals – two WCs</td> <td>Two WCs</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4 (D)</td> <td>Four urinals – two WCs</td> <td>Two WCs</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5 (F)</td> <td>Two urinals – one WC</td> <td>Two WCs</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6 (G)</td> <td>Two urinals – one WC</td> <td>Two WCs</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7 (H)</td> <td>Two urinals – one WC</td> <td>Two WCs</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8 (RFL)</td> <td colspan="2">Adequate toilet provision</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Grade	Spectator Ground Toilets	Spectator Ground Toilets	<i>Previous Grade in brackets</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	1 (A)	Four urinals – two WCs in two areas of the ground	Two WCs in two areas of the ground	2 (B)	Four urinals – two WCs	Two WCs	3 (C)	Four urinals – two WCs	Two WCs	4 (D)	Four urinals – two WCs	Two WCs	5 (F)	Two urinals – one WC	Two WCs	6 (G)	Two urinals – one WC	Two WCs	7 (H)	Two urinals – one WC	Two WCs	8 (RFL)	Adequate toilet provision		<table border="1" data-bbox="1317 344 2020 1114"> <thead> <tr> <th>Grade</th> <th>Spectator Ground Toilets</th> <th>Spectator Ground Toilets</th> </tr> <tr> <th><i>Previous Grade in brackets</i></th> <th><i>Male</i></th> <th><i>Female</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1 (A)</td> <td>Four urinals & two WCs in two areas of the ground</td> <td>Two WCs in two areas of the ground</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 (B)</td> <td>Four urinals & two WCs</td> <td>Two WCs</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 (C)</td> <td>Four urinals & two WCs</td> <td>Two WCs</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4 (D)</td> <td>Two urinals & one WC</td> <td>Two WCs</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5 (F)</td> <td>Two urinals & one WC</td> <td>Two WCs</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6 (G)</td> <td>Two urinals & one WC</td> <td>Two WCs</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7 (H)</td> <td>Two urinals & one WC</td> <td>Two WCs</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Grade	Spectator Ground Toilets	Spectator Ground Toilets	<i>Previous Grade in brackets</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	1 (A)	Four urinals & two WCs in two areas of the ground	Two WCs in two areas of the ground	2 (B)	Four urinals & two WCs	Two WCs	3 (C)	Four urinals & two WCs	Two WCs	4 (D)	Two urinals & one WC	Two WCs	5 (F)	Two urinals & one WC	Two WCs	6 (G)	Two urinals & one WC	Two WCs	7 (H)	Two urinals & one WC	Two WCs
Grade	Spectator Ground Toilets	Spectator Ground Toilets																																																										
<i>Previous Grade in brackets</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>																																																										
1 (A)	Four urinals – two WCs in two areas of the ground	Two WCs in two areas of the ground																																																										
2 (B)	Four urinals – two WCs	Two WCs																																																										
3 (C)	Four urinals – two WCs	Two WCs																																																										
4 (D)	Four urinals – two WCs	Two WCs																																																										
5 (F)	Two urinals – one WC	Two WCs																																																										
6 (G)	Two urinals – one WC	Two WCs																																																										
7 (H)	Two urinals – one WC	Two WCs																																																										
8 (RFL)	Adequate toilet provision																																																											
Grade	Spectator Ground Toilets	Spectator Ground Toilets																																																										
<i>Previous Grade in brackets</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>																																																										
1 (A)	Four urinals & two WCs in two areas of the ground	Two WCs in two areas of the ground																																																										
2 (B)	Four urinals & two WCs	Two WCs																																																										
3 (C)	Four urinals & two WCs	Two WCs																																																										
4 (D)	Two urinals & one WC	Two WCs																																																										
5 (F)	Two urinals & one WC	Two WCs																																																										
6 (G)	Two urinals & one WC	Two WCs																																																										
7 (H)	Two urinals & one WC	Two WCs																																																										

21-22	Pitch Standards	<p>Missing wording added to (iv). The provisions in (v) and (vi) have been updated in order to be clearer and in-line with the Standardised Rules. Note: this is not an enhancement on requirements – simply ensuring consistency:</p> <p>(iv) The 3G football turf, including run-offs, shall be one continuous playing surface and shall be green in colour at least one metre from the outer edge of the touchline and goal line. All line markings shall be in accordance with the</p> <p>(v) From season 2016/17, only Clubs with FIFA Quality Pro Performance pitches will be eligible to take part in matches under the auspices of National League (i.e. NLS Steps 1 and 2), save that a Club which has a ground with the recommended FIFA Quality Performance standard can be promoted to Step 2 of the National League System, provided that it undertakes, upon renewal of the pitch, to install a pitch that meets the FIFA Quality Pro Performance standard and is certified.</p> <p>(vi) A Club wishing to be promoted to NLS Step 2 with a 3G football turf pitch must test the pitch by 31 March to the FIFA Quality Pro Performance criteria to ensure it meets the standard required. Any remedial work to meet the FIFA Quality Pro standard must be completed by 31 May and be at the Club’s expense.</p>	<p>(iv) The 3G football turf, including run-offs, shall be one continuous playing surface and shall be green in colour at least one metre from the outer edge of the touchline and goal line. All line markings shall be in accordance with the Laws of Association Football.</p> <p>(v) From season 2016/17, Only Clubs with FIFA Quality Pro Performance Standard Certificated 3G Football Turf Pitches will be eligible to take part in matches under the auspices of The National League (i.e. NLS Steps 1 and 2), save that a Club which has a ground with the recommended FIFA Quality Performance standard installed on or before 31 July 2016 can be promoted to Step 2 of the National League System, providing that it undertakes, upon renewal of the pitch, to install a pitch that meets the FIFA Quality Pro Performance Standard and is certified.</p> <p>(vi) A Club with a 3G Football Turf Pitch installed on or after 1 August 2016, wishing to with the intention of being promoted to NLS Step 2 with a 3G football turf pitch must test the pitch by 31 March to the FIFA Quality Pro Performance criteria Standard to ensure it meets the standard required. Any remedial work to meet the FIFA Quality Pro standard must be completed by 31 May, and be re-</p>
-------	-----------------	---	--

			<p>tested at the Club's expense and awarded the FIFA Quality Pro Standard certification. Failure to do so will result in relegation to the appropriate Step.</p>														
28	Floodlights – Grade-specific requirements	<p>Previously, Grade 7 was not displaying correctly – Grade 7 and its contents have been merged with Grades 3 to 6:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Grade 3</td> <td rowspan="4">Floodlights must be provided to an average lux reading of at least 120. No single reading can be less than one quarter of the highest reading, to ensure an even spread of light.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grade 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grade 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grade 6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grade 7</td> <td>When new or improved installations are being planned, the lighting procured must meet BS 12193 Class 2 and have an average lux reading of at least 200.</td> </tr> </table>	Grade 3	Floodlights must be provided to an average lux reading of at least 120. No single reading can be less than one quarter of the highest reading, to ensure an even spread of light.	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	When new or improved installations are being planned, the lighting procured must meet BS 12193 Class 2 and have an average lux reading of at least 200.	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Grade 3</td> <td rowspan="4">Floodlights must be provided to an average lux reading of at least 120. No single reading can be less than one quarter of the highest reading, to ensure an even spread of light.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grade 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grade 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grade 6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grade 7</td> <td>When new or improved installations are being planned, the lighting procured must meet BS 12193 Class 2 and have an average lux reading of at least 200.</td> </tr> </table>	Grade 3	Floodlights must be provided to an average lux reading of at least 120. No single reading can be less than one quarter of the highest reading, to ensure an even spread of light.	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	When new or improved installations are being planned, the lighting procured must meet BS 12193 Class 2 and have an average lux reading of at least 200.
Grade 3	Floodlights must be provided to an average lux reading of at least 120. No single reading can be less than one quarter of the highest reading, to ensure an even spread of light.																
Grade 4																	
Grade 5																	
Grade 6																	
Grade 7	When new or improved installations are being planned, the lighting procured must meet BS 12193 Class 2 and have an average lux reading of at least 200.																
Grade 3	Floodlights must be provided to an average lux reading of at least 120. No single reading can be less than one quarter of the highest reading, to ensure an even spread of light.																
Grade 4																	
Grade 5																	
Grade 6																	
Grade 7	When new or improved installations are being planned, the lighting procured must meet BS 12193 Class 2 and have an average lux reading of at least 200.																
35	Spectator accommodation for Steps 5 & 6	<p>Previously, Grade 5 was listed as having the same Grade-specific requirements as Grade 6, which was incorrect:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>Min. covered accommodation</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grade 5</td> <td rowspan="2">For 100, of which 50 are seats in no more than one stand</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grade 6</td> </tr> </table>		Min. covered accommodation	Grade 5	For 100, of which 50 are seats in no more than one stand	Grade 6	<p>This has been amended to read as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>Min. covered accommodation</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grade 5</td> <td>For 200, of which 100 are seats in no more than one stand</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grade 6</td> <td>For 100, of which 50 are seats in no more than one stand</td> </tr> </table>		Min. covered accommodation	Grade 5	For 200, of which 100 are seats in no more than one stand	Grade 6	For 100, of which 50 are seats in no more than one stand			
	Min. covered accommodation																
Grade 5	For 100, of which 50 are seats in no more than one stand																
Grade 6																	
	Min. covered accommodation																
Grade 5	For 200, of which 100 are seats in no more than one stand																
Grade 6	For 100, of which 50 are seats in no more than one stand																

40-42	Grade-specific requirements	<p>All references to the following have been amended:</p> <p><i>“In addition, there must be hand wash basins with hot and cold running water,....”</i></p>	<p><i>“In addition, there must be hand wash basins with hot and cold running water,....”</i></p>
41	Grade 4 Step-specific requirements	<p>Previously, Grade 4 was listed as having the same Grade-specific requirements as Grades 2 & 3, which was incorrect. Therefore, these were amended as to the adjacent box.</p>	<p>Toilets must be located within the ground and must be accessible both to male and to female spectators. Such toilets need not be in a dedicated toilet block but must be in addition to those used by people using the clubhouse.</p> <p>The following minimum toilet facilities must be provided in total, excluding those located in any clubhouse:</p> <p>Male: 2 urinals or equivalent and 1 WC Female: 2 WCs</p> <p>In addition, wash hand basins with hot and cold running water, warm air hand driers and/or paper towel dispenser with towels and waste paper bins must be provided in each toilet area. Whilst replaceable linen roller towels in a cabinet are acceptable, individual hand towels are not permitted.</p> <p>All toilet areas must be in working order, with a roof and operational lighting, supplied with toilet paper and maintained to a high level of cleanliness.</p> <p>These facilities may be of a temporary or mobile kind but must be connected to the mains supply (ie water</p>

			<p>and power) and main drainage or an acceptable alternative drainage system. They must be fully accessible with permanent access.</p> <p>Individual toilet units often known as 'portaloos' are permissible on a temporary basis but may not be included in the minimum toilet requirements.</p> <p>The location of all toilet facilities must be indicated with appropriate signage.</p>
--	--	--	--

In addition to the changes above, all references to the requirements for Regional NLS Feeder Leagues have been removed from this document and a separate criteria document will follow for those Leagues as they sit outside the National League System.