

NATURAL TURF PITCHES SURFACE RISK ASSESSMENT

This document is designed to identify common sense considerations and risk factors when reviewing the safety of the surface of a natural turf pitch for rugby union matches and training



PITCH TOO HARD

Typical injuries: impact injuries; lower limb, shoulder, concussion

Does it take a stud?

Does a pitch fork penetrate the surface easily?

How much grass coverage (which absorbs impact) is there?

If you have a clegg hammer; is the reading below 75?

Is the ground harder where pitch markings have been 'burned' in?

Is the pitch showing any signs of cracking?

If frosty, what is the weather forecast?

If frosty, is any of the pitch permanently in shade?



UNEVEN OR CRACKED PITCH

Typical injuries: lower limb injuries (sprained ankles, knee ligaments)

Does the pitch have a lot of high and low spots?

Have you already identified that the pitch is hard? Undulations are more dangerous on a hard pitch.

Are any of the low spots holding water?

Are there any cracks in the pitch?

Are there any holes in the pitch?

Are the cracks/holes significant enough to affect a player's contact/interaction with the pitch?



FOREIGN OBJECTS ON PITCH

Typical injuries: lacerations; infections, abrasions

Is there any dog fouling on the pitch?

Is there any glass or other sharp impediments?

Is there any general litter?



WATERLOGGED PITCH

Typical injuries: joint injuries eg sprained ankles; knee ligaments

Is there any standing water?

What is the weather forecast?



REMEMBER!

**PLAYER SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT AT ALL TIMES
SPEAK TO THE GROUNDS PERSON TO GET THEIR INPUT ON THE STATE OF THE PITCH
100% OF THE FIELD MUST BE SAFE. IF A SMALL AREA IS UNSAFE THEN THE PITCH SHOULD NOT BE USED**

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