

Ground Conditions Document

D. APPENDIX 'A'

All member clubs of the HERTS SENIOR COUNTY LEAGUE (the Competition) undertake to ensure that their playing facilities conform to the requirements set out in this appendix and will co-operate with the Standards Officer and other League Management Committee (LMC) members when completing ground inspections under the powers provided by Rule 5 (A).

All clubs will be required to complete a new 'facilities questionnaire' at the start of each new season and if they intend to use an alternative pitch during the season a separate questionnaire will be required for that pitch as well.

A request for change of pitch during the season must be accompanied by a completed questionnaire.

These requirements integrate the minimum standards as set down by the Football Association for **Regional NLS Leagues** football with additional standards set and approved by the Competition.

Clubs seeking admission to the Competition will be subject to a formal club structure assessment and ground inspection by a Sub-Committee delegated by the LMC and chaired by **the Standards Officer**, and clubs failing to meet the minimum standards specified in this appendix by the Annual General Meeting in June of each year may not be admitted.

The Sub-Committee will have the power to recommend that applications for membership be accepted where they believe that minimum entry requirements will and can be met within a specified timescale agreed with the club after the Annual General Meeting (not exceeding twelve months or one season, whichever is the shorter).

Once admitted, a member club undertakes to maintain its playing facilities so that they conform to the requirements always set out here at the risk of expulsion, relegation or other penalty as the LMC considers appropriate.

Grounds are routinely inspected in detail on a three-year rolling basis, or on request by any member club. Ad hoc inspections shall also be carried out where concerns have been reported regarding ground standards.

Any member club seeking to change its approved playing venue will give notice to the Management Committee no later than 1st April prior to the commencement of the season in which the change would take effect. Any proposed new ground is subject to inspection and approval by the LMC.

Where temporary circumstances warrant it, the LMC has the power to vary the requirements set out in Appendix 'A' where to do so would be to the benefit of the Competition and its member clubs.

SECTION A

Ground Requirements for all teams are as follows:

1. PITCH SIZES

Pitches will conform in all respects to the requirements of the Laws of Association Football and be of a minimum of size 100 x 64 metres for the Premier Division

Division	Pitch Size
Premier	100 x 64 metres
Div 1	90 x 64 metres
Div 2	90 x 64 metres
Div 3	90 x 45 metres
Div 4	90 x 45 metres
Div 5	90 x 45 metres
Church	90 x 45 metres

2. GROUND AND PLAYING AREAS

The playing area must be kept in good condition and all sections which allow viewing access **MUST** be completely enclosed.

Premier Division requires post and rail or a solid barrier. Where one side of the pitch is affected by a cricket square, this may be roped using a method approved by the Competition.

The following for all Divisions is as follows.

Division	Type of Barrier (Minimum)	Additional Remarks	Distance touchline to barrier
Premier	Solid Barrier (including Metal Mesh infill) or Post & Rail. If there is a cricket square by one part of pitch, then Rope can be used.	All 4 sides of the pitch MUST be covered by Barrier.	2 metres
D1	Roped area	All 4 sides must be covered by rope.	2 metres
D2	Roped or Respect Barrier	At least one side of the pitch must be covered by barrier.	1.5 to 2 metres
D3	Roped or Respect Barrier	At least one side of the pitch must be covered by barrier.	1.5 to 2 metres
D4	Roped or Respect Barrier	At least one side of the pitch must be covered by barrier.	1.5 to 2 metres
D5	Roped or Respect Barrier	At least one side of the pitch must be covered by barrier.	1.5 to 2 metres
Church	Roped or Respect Barrier	At least one side of the pitch must be covered by barrier.	1.5 to 2 metres

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Note: where only part of the pitch is segregated then all team officials and players must situate themselves on the other side away from spectators.

When roping is employed, it will conform to the following specification:

1. The diameter of the ropes will be not less than 12mm.
2. The ropes must be supported by posts of an appropriate design and strength, and the height of each post and rope attachment point shall be the same height as the post and rail set where infilling a post and rail system. Alternatively, a minimum height of one metre above ground level, and the poles shall be no more than four metres apart.
3. The ropes may not sag more than 150mm at the centre point between the posts
4. Pitch enclosures, including any roping, must be set back from the touchline as per above table.

Where a natural boundary exists around a playing area, clubs may be allowed dispensation not to enclose these sections.

5. Permanent dugouts or portable trainers' boxes these must be capable of holding **eight people (8)** for the following.

Division	Type	Additional measures
Premier	Covered Dugouts	N/a
D1	Dugouts should be used	Can use additional type of seating.
D2	Not Required	Optional to use any type seating
D3	Not Required	Optional to use any type seating
D4	Not Required	Optional to use any type seating
D5	Not Required	Optional to use any type seating
Church	Not Required	Optional to use any type seating

6. Goal posts and other appurtenances and fittings must comply with all relevant health and safety requirements (standards BSEN 748 or PAS 36/2000 apply) and conform with prevailing guidelines as may be issued from time to time by national and county football associations.

8. Match officials may, at their discretion, postpone or delay the start of any game where this requirement is not met.

9. Clubs should check regularly to ensure that crossbars meet the height requirement set down by the Football Association for adult football.

10. Clubs must also ensure that all clips, clamps, ties and fixings are in good condition, and not a danger to players at any time.

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11. The use of 3g pitches is permitted in the League provided they are approved **by the FA** for the whole season and **contained within the FA register** (<https://footballfoundation.org.uk/3g-pitch-register>) and must be coloured green and white lined.

The artificial pitch must conform with the design standard of the FA for adult football. The use of other forms and colour of artificial pitches are not permitted by the FA for competitive matches.

3. TECHNICAL AREA

1. Technical Areas must be marked with a white line or other distinguishing markings, extending one metre on either side of the Trainers Box/ Bench, and extending forward up to a distance of one metre away from the touchline.

Outside the premier league clubs all other divisions may use cones to mark out a technical area.

2. Each team's Trainer's Box/Bench will be separately defined unless they are situated within two metres of each other.

3. The persons permitted in the Technical Area are as follows.

- managerial staff, trainer/physiotherapist
- five substitutes.

The maximum number of persons permitted within the Technical Area may not exceed the number of seats provided within that area and, in any case, may not exceed eight.

If more than eight persons, including substitutes, are observed by any match official to be within the Technical Area the referee and/or fourth official has the power to order the removal of all surplus persons.

4. Only one person is permitted to stand within the Technical Area at any time during the progress of a match.

5. Team officials must remain within the confines of the Technical Area except in special circumstances, for example, for the treatment of an injured player. In such cases it will be determined by the referee and/or fourth official who may enter the field of play and when they may do so.

6. A maximum of three substitutes may warm up outside the Technical Area but if within the confines of the railed or roped playing area only in the half used by the assistant referee. Substitutes may warm up anywhere beyond the railed or roped confines of the playing area.

7. Occupants of the Technical Area must conduct themselves, always, in a responsible manner.

8. Pink bibbs shall be worn by substitutes who are not currently in play

4. MANAGEMENT OF THE PLAYING AREA

1. Home clubs must ensure that players' and match officials' access to and from the playing area is **always safeguarded and free from interference by spectators**.

5. DRESSING ROOMS

1. Separate dressing rooms must be provided for each team and match officials – at least a minimum of three rooms in all – the dressing room for each team should be at least twelve (12) square metres in usable area. An area of 18 sqm for new builds and future designs. The dressing room for match officials shall be at least **four (4) square metres** and 8sq m for new builds and designs in usable area.
2. Clubs are also required to have a contingency plan in place for when **both male and female** match officials are appointed.
3. All dressing rooms shall be kept in a clean and tidy condition, and all shall be secure, lockable and private.
4. Where clubs are planning to commission new changing facilities, the design should allow for the team dressing rooms to be a minimum of eighteen square metres in area. The shower and toilet areas shall not count in this area.
5. The design shall include two dressing rooms for match officials, and that one shower head should be located in each room.
6. To be eligible for promotion to Step Six, clubs must also have en suite shower and toilet facilities for each team and the match officials, with a minimum of four shower heads per team.

6. SHOWERING FACILITIES

Separate showering facilities of a reasonable size are required for each team and match officials. (Dispensation from this requirement may be granted at the Management Committee's discretion to teams competing in ***Divisions other than the Premier Division***).

The following is required within each division.

Division	Shower requirement (minimum)	Additional Comments	Officials Room
Premier	At least 3 working shower heads within each dressing room	Clubs must have plans to accommodate should different genders of officials be allocated.	At least 1 working shower head.
D1	At least 3 working shower heads within each dressing room	Clubs must have plans to accommodate should different genders of officials be allocated.	At least 1 working shower head.
D2	At least 3 working shower heads within each dressing room	Clubs must have plans to accommodate should different genders of officials be allocated.	At least 1 working shower head.
D3	At least 3 working shower heads within each dressing room. Depending on facilities you can have 1 shared showers facility but must have at least 4 shower heads.	Clubs must have plans to accommodate should different genders of officials be allocated.	At least 1 working shower head.

D4	At least 3 working shower heads within each dressing room. Depending on facilities you can have 1 shared showers facility but must have at least 4 shower heads.	Clubs must have plans to accommodate should different genders of officials be allocated.	At least 1 working shower head.
D5	At least 3 working shower heads within each dressing room. Depending on facilities you can have 1 shared showers facility but must have at least 4 shower heads.	Clubs must have plans to accommodate should different genders of officials be allocated.	At least 1 working shower head.
Church	At least 3 working shower heads within each dressing room. Depending on facilities you can have 1 shared showers facility but must have at least 4 shower heads.	Clubs must have plans to accommodate should different genders of officials be allocated.	At least 1 working shower head.

7. TOILETS

The following is a minimum standard for clubs:

Division	Minimum Requirement	Location
Premier	Toilets & Washbasins for each team and for officials	Ideally Attached to Dressing rooms for each team and officials
D1	Toilets & washbasin	Can be separate from Dressing rooms.
D2	Toilets & washbasin	Can be separate from Dressing rooms.
D3	Toilets & washbasin	Can be separate from Dressing rooms.
D4	Toilets & washbasin	Can be separate from Dressing rooms.
D5	Toilets & washbasin	Can be separate from Dressing rooms.
Church	Toilets & washbasin	Can be separate from Dressing rooms.

3. Spectators/ Disability

1. All clubs must have facilities available for spectators to use toilets of mixed sex (Mandatory for Premier league Clubs.
2. Clubs must have a plan for **disabled supporters** to use facilities.

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8. HOSPITALITY

For Premier League clubs, a provision must be provided for visiting teams to have refreshments at Half Time (excluding water unless specified by visiting teams).

For Referee teams must provide refreshments at half time.

Premier League clubs should have facilities for drinks available for spectators.

9. EMERGENCY ACCESS

1. Access to the playing area for emergency services vehicles should be provided.

2. All grounds shall have an emergency plan covering evacuation and safe routes.

10. FIRST AID

1. There must be a suitable, qualified person with a first aid qualification in attendance at all games.

2. There must be a suitable access to the ground and pitch and an action plan for summoning emergency services

3. An approved first kit as a minimum must be available at each match

SECTION B

The League stipulates that the following administrative requirements shall be in place:

1. TENURE

Clubs must have a formal agreement in place on their ground, which identifies their priority of use, to be accepted into league membership and be able to show the documentation.

2. PROPERLY CONSTITUTED CLUB

The club must have in place a club constitution that meets FA requirements, hold regular minutes meetings, and keep annual accounts **which a copy needs to be shown to the league.**

3. FA ACCREDITATION (Mandatory for all Clubs)

All clubs joining the Senior Section must attain FA Adult Accreditation, formally Charter Club Standard status within one year of being elected to the Competition. Priority will be given to new applicants with FA Charter Standard status already achieved.

SECTION C

Spectator facilities required are as followed:

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1. CLUB HOUSE (PREMIER DIVISON)

1. Where these are combined with other facilities, it should be available for use on match days by visiting teams, match officials and spectators.

2. WALKWAYS AND COVERED ACCOMMODATION

1. For premier division grounds a dry hard standing walkway around at least one side of the playing area which should be situated either side of the pitch length ways (Corner to Corner via centre of pitch) , should be provided for spectator comfort. The walkway will be maintained in good order and repair, above the level of the supporting ground, free of encroaching weeds and grass and without gaps or other breaks and interruptions.

2. Covered shelter, to accommodate a minimum of twenty (20) spectators, on one side of the pitch will be provided, and this to be adjacent to a walkway and provide a clear view of the playing area.

Note: If clubs are using buildings with roof overhangs, then, **no walkways or entrances** to buildings entrances can be used.

3. HOSPITALITY FOR VISITING CLUBS

1. Where admission is charged for entry to a ground, complimentary admission must be provided for a maximum of four (4) visiting club officials, who are to be deemed as guests.

2. The visiting club is expected to contact the home club secretary at least two days prior to the fixture to provide the names of officials planning to attend.

3. League officials attending matches in an Official capacity shall be permitted free access to the ground

Note all and any departures from these the league and FA standards reported by League officials may be subject to fines up to but not exceeding £10 for each and every instance etc subject to committee approval.

**E. REGULATIONS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION
OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM**

The NLS Regulations can be found in the FA Handbook which is available on the FA Website.