Kingston upon Hull City Council

Maintenance Standards for Sports Pitches

2010
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**Football**

The whole of the area shall be chain harrowed in passes longitudinally (from end to end) with a 300mm overlap in each pass using approved properly adjusted harrows.

The work shall be carried out during suitable weather conditions. All the pitch area shall be aerated using a tractor mounted Sisis Spiker or similar machine. Penetration shall be to a minimum of 150mm at 300mm centres. Ground conditions must be suitable to avoid any damage.

An approved 14.4.4 granular fertiliser is applied. One dressing of 35g per m2 will be applied in April.

Rolling will be carried out in one pass as soon as early morning moisture has evaporated. The whole of the area is rolled with a tractor mounted roller weighing not more than 1500kg or less than 1200kg designed by the manufacturer to achieve a standard of firmness and level commensurate with the requirements of the game being played.

Vertidraining is carried out, this is designed to aerate to a depth of from 100mm to 450mm as required.

At the start of the playing season the posts are assembled and crossbars and uprights are erected in the previously located sockets and made secure after removing the covering soil and socket covers.

The pitches are set out and marked. The sizes and all markings should conform to the Football Rules. Lines shall be cut out before marking with an approved rotary or cylinder grass cutter set to a height of 25mm. The marking shall be in white non-toxic marking material.

Pitches are then overmarked once per week on Thursdays and Fridays. This is done with an approved white non-toxic marking material. Pitch measurements have to remain accurate and all lines remain clear, true, and consistent throughout the playing season. Extra overmarking may be required if mid-week fixtures are booked.

Pitches are inspected on each Friday during the playing season to ensure posts are vertical and secure and cleaned of all mud. All stones, glass, litter and debris are removed from the pitches. Also, all holes in the pitch are filled with soil to the level of the surrounding area and all divots replaced. Localised flooding in goal mouths or pitch centres should also be dealt with by the use of hand forks.

A report is then made on the condition of all pitches regarding fitness to play of each pitch by Friday 12 Noon.
Any renovation works required should be carried out immediately by sowing grass seed. This area will usually be the goal mouths and the centre and will be 1/3 of the total area of each pitch. Approved machinery designed by the manufacturer for pitch renovating and grass seed should be used. The amount of seed will be 33grms per m2 and will be inserted below the existing sward in two passes at right angles to each other. Disturbance of existing sward will be kept to a minimum and pitch surface will be left level and true.

At the end of the playing season the posts and sockets are carefully dismantled and stored for the whole of the close season. Once these have been removed purpose made metal caps are fitted to the sockets and soil is applied to cover to surrounding level. Also, a written report is compiled about the condition etc., of the posts in preparation for the next season.
5-A-Side Football

The 5-a-side pitches are overmarked once per week on Thursdays or Fridays. This shall be done with an approved white, non-toxic marking material. Pitch measurements should remain accurate and all lines remain clear, true and consistent.

These 5-a-side pitches should also be inspected on each Friday during the playing season to ensure posts are vertical and secure and cleaned of all mud. All stones, glass, litter and debris are removed from the pitches. Also, all holes in the pitch are filled with soil to the level of the surrounding area and all divots replaced. Localised flooding in goal mouths or pitch centres should also be dealt with by the use of hand forks.

A report is then made on the condition of all pitches regarding fitness to play of each pitch by Friday 12 Noon.
Hockey

At the start of the playing season the posts are assembled and crossbars and uprights erected in the previously located sockets and made secure after removing the covering soil and socket covers to his store. The erected posts comply with the Hockey Association Rules in all respects.

The pitches are set out and marked out, the sizes and all markings of which conform to the Hockey Association Rules. The marking shall be in white non-toxic marking material.

The pitches are overmarked once per week on Fridays. This is in an approved white, non toxic marking material. Pitch measurements should remain accurate and all lines remain clear, true and consistent throughout the playing season. Additional overmarking may be required if pitches are booked for mid week fixtures.

The whole of the pitch area is rolled every 20 working days using a 1500kg roller. This should be carried out as soon as surface moisture evaporates to achieve a firm, level profile and this should be done in one pass.

At the end of the playing season the posts are carefully dismantled and stored during the whole of the close season. After removal of the posts the metal caps are replaced to the sockets and these are then covered with soil to surrounding level. A written report is then made on the condition of posts.

Inspections are undertaken during the playing season usually on each Friday, to ensure posts are vertical and secure and cleaned of all mud. All stones, glass, litter and debris shall be removed from the pitches. All holes in the pitch are filled with soil to the level of the surrounding area and all divots replaced. Any localised flooding in goal mouth or pitch centres is relieved by the use of hand forks.

A report is made by Friday 12 Noon on the condition of all pitches regarding fitness to play of each pitch.

Mowing is carried out on Thursday of each week from week 36 to week 44 and the whole of the pitch is cut with a cylinder grass mower capable of 40 to 60 cuts per metre set to a cutting height of 18 – 20mm.
Rugby

At the start of the playing season the posts are assembled and crossbars and uprights erected in the previously located sockets and made secure after removing the covering soil and socket covers to his store. The erected posts comply with the Rugby Association Rules in all respects.

The pitches are set out and marked out, the sizes and all markings of which conform to the Rugby Association Rules. The marking shall be in white non-toxic marking material.

The pitches are overmarked once per week on Thursdays or Fridays. This is in an approved white, non-toxic marking material. Pitch measurements should remain accurate and all lines remain clear, true and consistent throughout the playing season.

At the end of the playing season the posts are carefully dismantled and stored during the whole of the close season. After removal of the posts the metal caps are replaced to the sockets and these are then covered with soil to surrounding level. A written report is then made on the condition of posts.

The pitches are inspected on each Friday during the playing season to ensure posts are vertical and secure and cleaned of all mud. All stones, glass, litter and debris shall be removed from the pitches. All holes in the pitch with are filled with soil to the level of the surrounding area and all divots are replaced. Any localised flooding in goal mouth or pitch centres is relieved by the use of hand forks.

A report is compiled on the condition of all pitches regarding fitness to play of each pitch by Friday 12 Noon.

All pitch lines are cut with an approved rotary or cylinder mower set to cut at a height of 25mm carried out at a frequency of once per 4 weeks during the period indicated.

At the end of the playing season the posts are carefully dismantled and stored. After removal of the posts the metal caps are replaced to the sockets and then covered with soil to surrounding level. A written report on the condition of posts is made.
Putting Greens

The greens are cut using an approved boxed cylinder mower capable of achieving 129 – 320 cuts per metre set to cut to a height of between 4 – 10mm. This is undertaken at a frequency of once per week on a Friday.

An approved slow release N fertiliser of 24.0.0. + 2% iron analysis at a rate of 33g per m2 is applied to the whole of the putting green.

An application of fertiliser is applied in summer of 14.2.4. analysis at a rate of 33g per m2 to the whole of the putting green. Another application is applied late summer of 6.4.12. + 6% iron analysis at a rate of 33g per m2 to the whole of the putting green. Turf tonic can also be applied at a rate of 7.0.0. + 2% iron analysis at the rate of 33g per m2.

Any top dressing that is applied should be applied at a rate of 1kg per m2.

During Spring and Summer new holes can be taken out if necessary. This is normally carried out on a Friday.

Irrigation can be carried out when necessary. The whole of the green is watered and this should be done on two separate occasions, evenly spaced, during the week. Amounts will be 2250 litres per 100m2 on each occasion. All areas to be irrigated are to be done so evenly, ensuring that no localised ponding occurs.

Approved selective herbicide, moppard, lumicide, fungicide, insecticide, is all applied to the green as and when required.
Bowling Greens

The bowling greens will be cut using an approved pedestrian operated boxed cylinder mower capable of achieving 129 – 320 cuts per metre set to cut to a height of 7mm – 10mm. This is undertaken as follows:–

Weeks 1 – 8 cut every two weeks.
Weeks 9 – 12 cut twice per week on Mondays and Thursdays.
Weeks 13 – 35 cut three times per week on Mon, Wed and Fridays.
Weeks 36 – 44 cut twice per week on Mondays and Thursdays.
Weeks 45 – 52 cut every two weeks.

The grass edges of bowling greens are trimmed neatly using sharp well adjusted long handled shears. This is undertaken at a frequency of once per 2 weeks. Using a half moon the edges of the bowling greens are reformed.

The greens are switched or brushed to ensure that early morning dew, worm casts or overnight dampness is removed from the playing surface.

Grass seed mix A (Bent/Fescue) is evenly spread at 20gms per m2 prior to application of top dressing and worked into the surface with top dressing.

An approved top dressing is applied at a rate of 4kg per m2 immediately after hollow tining. The top dressing shall be completely worked into the holes made by the hollow tining. Prior to working in of top dressing grass seed mix A (Bent/Fescue) will be applied at the rate of 20gms per m2 to the whole of the area. This seed will be worked in with the top dressing.

Irrigation shall take place over the whole area of the green evenly (ensuring that water penetrates to 100 – 125mm) on two occasions each week evenly spaced during the week before 12 noon or after 10 p.m. Amounts will be 2250 litres per 100m2 on each occasion. All irrigation is done by using sprinklers. All hosepipes and fittings should be adequate for the purpose and no leaking of water is allowed. Irrigation of the green must not be allowed to interfere with play. All areas to be irrigated are evenly and adequately watered and no localised ponding is allowed to occur.

Approved selective herbicide, mosskiller, lumbricide, fungicide and insecticide is applied as and when required.

Suitable machinery will be used to carry out the tining of the bowling green. The spiked slits shall be a minimum depth of 100mm at a maximum of 100mm centres. Light slitting may also be carried out in order to aerate the playing surface and relieve compaction. Grounds conditions need to be carefully evaluated before this can be carried out.

The greens are hollow tined to a depth of 100mm and to a maximum of 100mm centres. The cores extracted by the machine are then cleared
immediately from the fine turf areas by careful raking and sweeping or use of a machine and then removed from site and disposed of. No materials extracted as cores are allowed to fall back into the holes.

Greens are rolled using a roller weight not less than 100kg (2cwt) or heavier than 500kg (10cwt).

During the Spring and Autumn the greens are scarified with an approved machine to a depth of 3mm done in two directions.

During the Summer the whole area of green is verticut with an approved machine set to cut thatch but not to cut into the soil. This is carried out in two directions and all arisings are boxed off and removed.

Greens are kept clear of debris (leaves, branches, twigs etc) by sweeping, raking or use of machinery suitable for the purpose. This is carried out once per week during the period week 40 to 52.

The ditches around the greens are kept clear of debris and weeds and the sand in the bottom of the ditch is raked, ensuring that it does not spread onto the green or the surround. This sand is topped up when required to maintain the level of sand to 100mm below the level of green surface.

Greens are irrigated (ensuring that water penetrates to 100 – 125mm) on two occasions each week evenly spaced during the week before 12 noon or after 10 p.m. Amounts will be 2250 litres per 100m2 on each occasion.

All irrigation is carried out using sprinklers. All hosepipes and fittings are adequate for the purpose. Irrigation of the green is not allowed to interfere with play. All areas to be irrigated are to be evenly and adequately watered and no localised ponding is allowed to occur.

The greens are measured and marked out in an approved colour. Lawn sand is applied at a rate of 100g per m2 when required. Iron sulphate is also applied at 6 week intervals.

The greens are top dressed in the Spring with a grass seed mix A (Bent/Fescue). This is evenly spread at 20gms per m2 prior to the application of the top dressing and worked into the surface with the top dressing. After scarification the top dressing is applied at a rate of 1kg per m2.
Cricket

The cricket season is usually mid-April to end of September.

During the Summer the square is cut using an approved boxed cylinder mower capable of achieving 85 cuts per running metre set to cut at 8mm to 12mm. Cuts to be on Tuesday and Friday of each week.

The outfield is cut every Friday during the cricket season using a cylinder mower with floating heads capable of 36 to 85 cuts per metre and this is set to cut at between 12mm and 24mm, each cut to be at 90 degrees to the previous.

Fertiliser is applied during Spring and Summer. This is applied evenly and should be an approved slow release N fertiliser of 24.0.0. + 2% iron analysis at a rate of 33g per m2. Turf tonic is applied when required - 7.0.0. + 2% iron analysis at a rate of 33g per m2.

Top dressing is carried out to the whole of the square in order to improve soil structure, extend playing life and produce a level surface. The top dressing should be screened sterilised medium loam applied at the rate of 2kg per m2.

This can be applied by hand or powered equipment. An even spread of the material must be achieved. Grass seed mix E will be spread at 20grms per m2 to the whole area of the square and worked in along with the top dressing.

Immediately after spreading the material, the top dressing is well “worked” into the surface of the table using either a dragmat, hand lute or drag brush, or a combination of all three methods. The aim is to fill the hollows with the dressing and create a level playing surface.

An approved top dressing shall be applied at a rate of 4kg per m2 immediately after hollow tining. The top dressing is well worked into the holes made by the hollow tining using a drag mat, lute or drag brush or a combination of these three. The aim is to fill all holes with dressing. Prior to working in the top dressing 20grms per m2 of grass seed mix E is evenly spread to the whole area and worked in along with the dressing.

As and when required the cricket squares are treated with herbicide, mosskiller, lumbricide, fungicide and insecticide.

During the Spring the cricket table is scarified with two passes at right angles to each other. In the Autumn at the end of the playing season this is done again in order to remove any build up of thatch, dead matter etc. Depending on the extent of the problem tine penetration should not normally exceed 9mm.
The whole cricket square is lightly verticut during the Summer with an approved machine set to cut thatch but not to cut into the soil. This is carried out in two directions.

Using a spiker or equivalent machine the area will be tine spiked to a depth not less than 100mm. The holes are at 100mm centres and this is undertaken at a frequency of once per two weeks during the period indicated.

When vertidraining is carried out, the whole of the area is addressed using approved machinery this is designed to aerate to a depth of from 100mm to 450mm as required provides combing soil movement.

The whole cricket square should be rolled when necessary. In order to achieve an approved standard of firmness and level profile the Table must be rolled with a hand or self propelled roller weighing not less than 250kg or more than 500kg and designed by the manufacturers for use on cricket table. Rolling operations must not commence until all surface moisture has evaporated.

The cricket square is measured and marked as follows:

At the commencement of the cricket season, the Table should be “squared” to allow wickets to be cut and marked parallel to the corners.

The outfield boundary will be marked in accordance with regulation dimensions i.e., not less than 37m from the bowler's crease of centre wicket to each corner of the boundary. The boundary line must be marked with a non-toxic white marking compound using a pedestrian line marker.

Wicket preparation to be carried out prior to each match.

The Contractor will on the day of the match or Friday in the case of weekend matches cut a wicket to dimensions recommended by the Cricket League using a boxed cylinder mower capable of achieving 129 – 320 cuts per running metre set to cut at 2 – 4mm.

Wickets will be carefully marked out by use of measuring tape, template. Crease markings to be marked with a brush using a non-toxic whitening compound, lines to be 1" in width and in accordance with regulation dimensions.

Wicket will be rolled after cutting to produce a level surface suitable for the playing of minor league cricket with a hand or self propelled roller weighing not more than 1500kg and designed by manufacturer for this purpose.

After each match or on Monday in the case of Friday/Saturday matches ground will be renovated.

Aerate wicket with hand fork or pedestrian operated motorised machine.
Fork over hollows and reinstate to correct levels with an approved screened sterilised medium loam, compact by treading to consolidate levels.

Rake surface to form a seed bed and sow approved cricket grass seed mixture A over prepared areas at a rate of 33g per m² and rake in. Roll seeded areas with a hand roller and thoroughly irrigate wicket.

The boundary is overmarked on Friday of each week.

During the Summer fertiliser is applied (20.10.10 analysis) at a rate of 17g per m².

Irrigation is carried out when required (ensuring that water penetrates to 100 – 125mm). Amounts will be 2250 litres per 100m² on each occasion. All irrigation is carried out using sprinklers. All hosepipes and fittings to be adequate for the purpose. Irrigation of the area must not be allowed to interfere with play. All areas to be irrigated are to be evenly and adequately watered and no localised ponding is allowed to occur.
Tennis

At the start of the playing season, normally in April, the courts are marked out using measuring tape or pegs, the tennis posts and nets are erected. All markings conform to Lawn Tennis Association recommendations. A non-toxic whitening compound is used for wet line marking purposes incorporating a fixing agent.

The whole of the tennis court and surrounding area is cut using an approved boxed cylinder mower capable of achieving 78 cuts per running metre set to cut at 6 to 10mm. Task to be undertaken:

Weeks 1 – 8 cut every two weeks.
Weeks 9 – 12 cut every week.
Weeks 13 – 36 cut twice per week on Tuesdays and Fridays.
Weeks 37 – 43 cut every week.
Weeks 44 – 52 cut every two weeks.

Spring fertiliser is applied evenly 
(N fertiliser of 24.0.0. + 2% iron analysis) at a rate of 33g per m2.

Summer fertiliser is applied evenly (14.2.2. analysis) at a rate of 33g per m2.

When turf tonic (7.0.0 + 2% iron analysis) is required this is applied evenly at a rate of 33g per m2.

Top dressing is applied at a rate of 2kg per m2 immediately after hollow tining. The top dressing is well worked into the holes made by the hollow tining.

Irrigation is carried out when necessary, the whole area (ensuring that water penetrates to 100 – 125mm) is irrigated on two occasions each week evenly spaced during the week before 12 noon or after 10 p.m. Amounts will be 2250 litres per 100m2 on each occasion. All irrigation is carried out using sprinklers. All hosepipes and fittings should be adequate for the purpose and no leaking of water is allowed. Irrigation of the area must not interfere with play. All areas irrigated are to be evenly and adequately watered and no localised ponding is allowed to occur.

Throughout the season the courts are overmarked once per week on a Friday immediately after cutting. Overmarking is carried out with an approved white, non toxic marking material, the line width is 1”.

At the end of the season, normally in September, all the posts and nets are dismantled, washed and cleaned then stored away until the following season. Sockets are inspected for damage, replaced as necessary and covered over during the closed season.
When necessary the area may need an application of herbicide, mosskiller, lumbricide, fungicide or insecticide, this is always applied in line with the manufacturer’s instructions.

Scarification is carried out to the whole area with an approved machine to a depth of 3mm in two directions. The area is boxed off and all arisings are removed from site immediately after scarifying each way.

Verticutting of the area is carried out in two directions. The machine is set to cut thatch but not to cut into the soil. All arisings are boxed off and removed from site.

Solid tining of the whole area is done with approved machinery fitted with tines. This is undertaken once per two weeks during the correct period. The spiked holes shall be a minimum depth of 100mm at a maximum of 100mm centres.

In order to aerate the playing surface and relieve compaction light slitting is carried out. Due care is necessary to avoid disturbing the playing surface. Ground conditions need to be carefully evaluated before this operation is commenced.

Hollow tining is carried out to a depth of 100mm and to a maximum of 100mm centres. The cores extracted by the machine are then cleared immediately from the fine turf areas by careful raking and sweeping and removed from site and disposed of.

The whole area is rolled using a roller weight not less than 100kg (2cwt) or heavier than 500kg (10cwt). The weight is spread over at least 3 integrated sections of the roller.

Any tarmac tennis courts are swept at a frequency of once per week. They are also weedkilled with a total non-residual herbicide when required. When overmarking is required an approved white, non-toxic marking material is used and the lines are marked 2” in width with base line 4”.

Redgra courts are maintained as follows, selective top dressing is applied to level worn areas. The top dressing operation is preceded by a light scarification of the whole area so that the new material can be “keyed in” to the existing surface and rolled. The material must be laid to a thickness of not less than 2mm over worn areas. All top dressing operations (selective and entire) are followed by further brushing and rolling/luting operations.

In order to bind together the playing surface and create a level surface the area is given a scarification, luting, brushing and rolling treatment.

This operation is carried out at 5 working day intervals.
Redgra courts are marked out using a non-toxic marking compound with the aid of appropriate measuring and marking implements, ensuring that dimensions are correct.
Athletics

In order to bind together the playing surface and create a level running track the track surface has luting, rolling treatment and brushing, using a 4ft wide roller/lute (the roller to be nor more than 450kg) carried out. This is done at 5 working day intervals.

Marking of the running track is done by using a non-toxic marking compound, with the aid of appropriate measuring and marking implements, ensuring that all dimensions comply with AAA requirements. This is carried out at 5 day intervals.

Ancillary sports are accommodated by measuring and marking out areas to AAA dimensions. Examples of these sports are, shot putt, hammer throw, discuss and javelin.

Redgra track irrigation is carried out when required. The water should penetrate 20mm and not create a water logged surface. The purpose is to provide a firm surface for athletics to take place.

In November, selective top dressing is carried out to worn areas. The top dressing operation will be preceded by a light scarification of the whole area so that the new material can be “keyed in” to the existing surface and rolled. The material must be laid to a thickness of not more than 2mm over worn areas. All top dressing operations (selective and entire) will be followed by further brushing and rolling/luting operations.

Take off boards are inspected on every Thursday of each week to ensure that it is level and exactly positioned in relation to the run-up.

Jumping pits are also inspected on the Thursday of each week and if necessary they are dug and made level as necessary. They are raked to provide sand level at edge of pits crowning to 300mm above ground level in centre. Sand used to make up levels is clean, soft, and white (non-staining). All areas of sand are finished to a neat, smooth condition to enable the impact of the athletes to be absorbed without injury. The sand pit is also disinfected.

Water jump pit - using a pump all water, mud and debris is removed. This is disposed of directing into the nearest manhole. Once cleaned the pit is then disinfected. The pit is then filled to the approved level using clean water direct from the mains supply.

Any contaminated sand is to be removed and replaced with an approved clean, soft, white sand (non-staining) to make up to ground level at edge of pits, crowning to 300mm above ground level in centre.
Baseball

Baseball areas are prepared on a Friday each week. The whole of the redgra area is prepared by using a combination of dragbrush, lute, scarifier and roller to the standard required by the Rules of the Sport – British Baseball Federation at a frequency of 1 x 10 working days.

During the Spring the area is scarified to a depth not greater than 12mm. The surface area is then maintained with a lute and roll leaving is in a playable condition.

When required a total non-residual herbicide can be used on the playing surface.

The baseball area is usually cut on Friday of each week using a cylinder mower capable of 36 – 85 cuts per metre set at 12 – 24mm cutting height.

Measure and marking of the pitches should always conform to the British Baseball Federation. The marking shall be in white non-toxic marking material. Overmarking is carried out once per week on a Friday. If extra pitches are required for mid-week fixtures additional overmarking is carried out.