



Joint Ground Criteria

Intermediate clubs who are undertaking ground improvements/modifications should be conversant with the criteria for senior football

<u>IFA Premiership Criteria</u>	<u>Premier Intermediate League Criteria</u>	<u>Intermediate Football Criteria</u>
<p><u>Pitch and Playing Surface</u> The field of play must be rectangular and the length of the touch line must be greater than the length of the goal line. The minimum length is 95m and the minimum width is 60m.</p> <p>The pitch must be level and have a good playing surface.</p>	<p><u>Pitch and Playing Surface</u> The field of play must be rectangular and the length of the touch line must be greater than the length of the goal line. The minimum length is 90m and the minimum width is 45m.</p> <p>The pitch must be level and have a good playing surface.</p>	<p><u>Pitch and Playing Surface</u> The field of play must be rectangular and the length of the touch line must be greater than the length of the goal line. The minimum length is 90m and the minimum width is 45m.</p> <p>The pitch must be level and have a good playing surface.</p>
<p><u>Ground Environs</u> A permanent fixed wall/fence with a minimum height of 2 metres (measured from the exterior of the perimeter) is in place to prevent access except through the recognised entrances. Where a deterrent (glass, barbed wire, spikes etc) is placed on the top of the perimeter, it should be a minimum height of 2.4 metres.</p>	<p><u>Ground Environs</u> A permanent fixed fence or wall with a minimum height of 2 metres (measured from the exterior of the perimeter) be in place to prevent access except through the recognised entrances. Where a deterrent (glass, barbed wire, spikes etc) is placed on the top of the perimeter, it must be a minimum height of 2.4 metres.</p>	<p><u>Ground Environs</u> A permanent fixed fence, wall or natural boundary must be in place to prevent access except through the recognised entrances. Where a deterrent (glass, barbed wire, spikes etc) is placed on the top of a perimeter, it must be a minimum height of 2.4 metres.</p>
<p>It is recommended that pitch perimeter fences, where utilised, should conform with the recommendations as laid down in the 'Northern Ireland Guide to Safety at Sports-Grounds' (Red Guide).</p>	<p>Pitch perimeter fences should be put in place in order to enclose the playing surface. Such fences are not required in front of spectator seating areas and must be between 0.8 and 1.1m in height. An appropriate number of access gates (opening onto the playing area) must be in place at regular intervals in the pitch perimeter fence.</p>	<p>Pitch perimeter fences should be put in place in order to enclose the playing surface. Such fences are not required in front of spectator seating areas and must be between 0.8 and 1.1m in height. Such fences must be a fixed wall/fence or single or more bar rail and must be positioned not less than 2.5m from the playing area. An appropriate number of access gates (opening onto the playing area) must be in place at regular intervals in the pitch perimeter fence.</p>

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<p><u>Run Off Areas</u> It is <u>recommended</u> that a minimum distance of 2.25m, of natural grass or artificial grass, must be in place between the field of play touchlines to any fixed point (e.g. pitch perimeter fence/wall or dugout).</p> <p>The runoff areas must not exceed an even gradient of vertical to horizontal 1:41 in any direction and must be level and free from surface depressions, excessive undulations or any obstructions (e.g. raised manholes or raised sprinklers/hydrants).</p> <p>Where the recommendation above is not fully satisfied the club will be required to sign an indemnification form accepting full responsibility for any injuries sustained at the venue.</p>	<p><u>Run Off Areas</u> It is <u>recommended</u> that a minimum distance of 2.25m, of natural grass or artificial grass, must be in place between the field of play touchlines to any fixed point (e.g. pitch perimeter fence/wall or dugout).</p> <p>The runoff areas must not exceed an even gradient of vertical to horizontal 1:41 in any direction and must be level and free from surface depressions, excessive undulations or any obstructions (e.g. raised manholes or raised sprinklers/hydrants).</p> <p>Where the recommendation above is not fully satisfied the club will be required to sign an indemnification form accepting full responsibility for any injuries sustained at the venue.</p>	<p>The club must provide written confirmation (via a Local Authority, if relevant) that it has sole control of the ground and its environs on match-days and that only a referee's inspection can be used to declare the pitch unplayable.</p> <p>All facilities (including playing facilities and changing rooms) must be available to both competing clubs and referees on matchdays at least 60 minutes prior to kick off and 30 minutes following the completion of the match.</p>
	<p>The club must provide written confirmation (via a Local Authority, if relevant) that it has sole control of the ground and its environs on match-days and that only a referee's inspection can be used to declare the pitch unplayable.</p> <p>The club must further demonstrate that they have access to the ground at all relevant or required times during the playing season.</p>	<p>For a complex that has more than one pitch located within the permanent defined ground perimeter, it is mandatory on the occasion of an intermediate match that the teams and officials shall have exclusive use of the facility. No other match can take place whilst an intermediate match is being played. This will preclude the hosting of any other matches during the three hour time period identified above. All such complexes must be approved by the Intermediate Committee.</p> <p>For the avoidance of doubt, this stipulation does not apply to a ground situated within a complex with its own ground perimeter.</p>
<p>A dugout for each team must be provided to accommodate a minimum of eight persons. Where bench seating is utilised, each person should be allocated 50cm of linear space. A technical area must be clearly marked.</p>	<p>A dugout for each team must be provided to accommodate a minimum of eight persons. Where bench seating is utilised, each person should be allocated 50cm of linear space. A technical area must be clearly marked.</p>	<p>A dugout for each team must be provided to accommodate a minimum of eight persons. Where bench seating is utilised, each person should be allocated 50cm of linear space. The front of the dug-out must be at least 2.5 metres from the perimeter of the field of play and a technical area must be clearly marked.</p>

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<p><u>Access to Ground</u> Clubs must provide a minimum of four appropriately positioned turnstiles to afford for the segregation of spectators where necessary. Access/egress for players and officials must be provided.</p> <p>An admission gate for disabled persons, with a minimum width of 1.2m, be provided with ramps and a smooth gradient where required.</p>	<p><u>Access to Ground</u> Clubs must provide a minimum of two appropriately positioned turnstiles to afford for the segregation of spectators where necessary Access/egress for players and officials must be provided to ensure there is no interference whilst entering/inside/exiting the ground. An admission gate for disabled persons, with a minimum width of 1.2m, be provided with ramps, with a smooth gradient, where required.</p>	<p><u>Access to Ground</u> Clubs must provide a recognised entrance(s) and demonstrate their ability to collect gate receipts.</p>
<p><u>Exiting Ground</u> The exiting capacity must be a minimum of 1.15m per one thousand spectator capacity. Regardless of the capacity of any individual ground a minimum of 2m must be separately provided for both home and visiting supporters.</p>	<p><u>Exiting Ground</u> The exiting capacity must be a minimum of 1.15m per one thousand spectator’s capacity. However regardless of the capacity of any individual ground a minimum of 2m must be provided for both home supporters and visiting supporters.</p>	<p><u>Exiting Ground</u> The exiting capacity must be a minimum of 1.15m per one thousand spectator’s capacity. However regardless of the capacity of any individual ground a minimum of 2m must be provided for both home supporters and visiting supporters.</p>
<p><u>Spectator Facilities</u> Separate toilet facilities for home and away supporters, each with a minimum of one male WC, 4 male urinals and one female WC must be provided solely for the use of spectators. Clubs will have until 31 March in the season they are promoted to meet this criterion.</p>	<p><u>Spectator Facilities</u> The ground must have a minimum approved capacity of 500 persons. Of this a minimum of 200 covered terracing places must be available of which 100 are seated. Only individual seats will be accepted.</p>	
<p>A disabled toilet must also be provided but does not need to be specifically for the use of spectators. Such a disabled toilet may also be utilised as a male/female spectator toilet provided it is suitably equipped and identified.</p>	<p>A minimum of 5 disabled places must be provided and for capacities larger than the minimum the capacities must conform with the recommended disabled provision in sports grounds.</p>	
<p>It is recommended that particularly for larger capacity venues that toilet provision conforms to the Event Safety Guide (Purple Guide).</p>	<p>A minimum of one male WC,4 male urinals and one female WC must be provided solely for the use of spectators.</p>	
	<p>Toilet provision must conform with the Event Safety Guide (Purple Guide). A disabled toilet must also be provided but does not need to be specifically for the use of spectators.</p>	
	<p>Such a disabled toilet may also be utilised as a male/female spectator toilet provided it is suitably equipped and identified</p>	

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<p>All public passageways and stairways in the spectator area must be painted in a bright colour, as must all gates leading from the spectator areas to the playing area and all exit doors and gates leading out of the stadium.</p>		
<p>All exit gates and doors within the stadium and all gates leading to the playing area from spectator areas should open outwards away from spectators.</p>		
<p><u>Access to Pitch for players and officials</u> A protected area/tunnel must be in place to safeguard the access from the changing facility to playing area of players and officials.</p>	<p><u>Access to Pitch for players and officials</u> A barrier with a minimum height of 1.2m be in place to safeguard the access from changing facility to playing area of players and officials.</p>	<p><u>Access to Pitch for players and officials</u> A barrier with a minimum height of 1.0m be in place to safeguard the access from changing facility to playing area of players and officials.</p>
<p><u>Dressing Room Accommodation</u> The changing facilities for players and officials must be within the perimeter of the ground.</p> <p>There must be separate changing rooms for both teams with a minimum surface area of 15sqm. Showering facilities must be integral to the changing room, must be a minimum of 4sqm and must have a minimum of 6 showerheads. (Showering/WC areas will not be considered for the purposes of calculating changing room surface area). Each changing room must also contain a WC with wash-hand basin.</p>	<p><u>Dressing Room Accommodation</u> The changing facilities for players and officials must be within the perimeter of the ground.</p> <p>There must be separate changing rooms for both teams with a minimum surface area of 15sqm. Showering facilities must be integral to the changing room must be a minimum of 2sqm and must have a minimum of 4 showerheads. (Showering area will not be considered for the purposes of calculating changing room surface area). Each changing room must also contain a WC and there must be a urinal within close proximity of the changing rooms.</p>	<p><u>Dressing Room Accommodation</u> The changing facilities for players and officials must be within the perimeter of the ground.</p> <p>There must be separate changing rooms for both teams. Showering facilities must be integral to the changing room and must have a minimum of 4 showerheads for each team.</p>
<p>The referee must have a separate changing room with a minimum surface area of 9sqm. There must be a shower and a WC within the room. (Showering/WC areas will not be considered for the purposes of calculating changing room surface area).</p>	<p>The referee must have a separate changing room with a minimum surface area of 3sqm. There must be a shower and a WC within the room.</p>	<p>The referee must have a separate changing room with a minimum surface area of 3sqm. There must be a shower within the room. The room must be used solely as a referee changing room.</p>
<p>The above are the minimum requirements and are subject to change in line with Domestic and UEFA Club Licensing policies. Clubs should consult the Association when undertaking modifications to dressing room accommodations.</p>		<p>There must be adequate toilet facilities in the changing room complex.</p>

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<p>Changing rooms for players and officials must have adequate heating, be ventilated, be capable of being secured and be clean and tidy. Furthermore all floor surfaces should be non-slip and showers should be fitted with an appropriate thermostat to ensure that water temperature does not exceed 38 degrees Celsius. Clubs will have until 31 March in the season they are promoted to meet the above dressing room criteria.</p>	<p>Changing rooms for players and officials must have adequate heating, be ventilated to outside air, be capable of being secured and be clean and tidy. Furthermore all floor surfaces must be non-slip and showers should be fitted with an appropriate thermostat to ensure that water temperature does not exceed 38 degrees Celsius.</p>	<p>Changing rooms for players and officials must have adequate heating, be ventilated to outside air, be capable of being secured and be clean and tidy.</p>
<p><u>First Aid</u> A first Aid room which is clearly signposted throughout the stadium must be available and must have a minimum surface area of 10sqm. A first aid kit and stretcher must be available at all times.</p>	<p><u>First Aid</u> A first aid kit and stretcher must be available at all times.</p>	<p><u>First Aid</u> A first aid kit and stretcher must be available at all times.</p>
<p><u>Floodlighting</u> All clubs must have an appropriate floodlighting system in place. Where new floodlighting installations are to be put in place these should ensure an average light intensity of 500 lux measured in the vertical plane. Clubs should seek advice in this respect from the Club Licensing and Facilities Department.</p>	<p><u>Floodlighting/Reception Room</u> Whilst floodlighting or reception facilities are not essential, any teams who aspire to gain promotion to the Senior division must be in a position to install both at short notice.</p>	<p><u>Floodlighting/Reception Room</u> Whilst floodlighting or reception facilities are not essential, any teams who aspire to gain promotion to the Senior division must be in a position to install both at short notice.</p>
<p><u>Boardroom/Reception room</u> Clubs must have boardroom facilities available.</p>		
<p><u>Security/Control Room - Designated Venues</u> All designated grounds must be equipped with a Security/Control Room, which must have a clear view of all spectator areas. The security/control room must be equipped with a telephone, powerpoints and access to the PA system. Event organisers or health and safety personnel must be capable of communicating with spectators inside stadium by a PA system or electronic scoreboard.</p>		

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<p><u>Security/Control Room - Non-Designated Venues</u> If a stadium is not equipped with a Security/Control room (above), it must have as a minimum a suitably designated Control Area. The Control Area must be a dedicated room used solely as a control point for the ground. A PA system should be in place.</p>		
<p><u>Ground rules</u> Each stadium must issue stadium ground rules and affix them to the stadium in that spectators can read them.</p> <p>These rules should provide: admission rights; abandonment or postponement of events; description of prohibitions or penalties such as entering the field of play, throwing objects, use of foul or abusive language, racist behaviour etc; restrictions with regard to alcohol, fireworks, banners etc; seating rules and causes for ejection from the ground.</p>		
<p><u>Ground capacity and spectator accommodation</u> The ground must have a minimum approved capacity of 2000 persons. A minimum of 250 covered seats must be available. Only individual seats with backrest will be accepted. An additional 750 covered seats/terraced places must be available. Any balance up to 2000 (as per Council Safety Certificate for designated grounds) must be accommodated by hard-standing such as tarmac, concrete or concrete paving.</p> <p>Hard-standing accommodation will be calculated as 8 persons per linear metre (2 persons per linear metre multiplied by 4 persons to a depth of 1.5 metres). Grass banking is not acceptable for use as spectator areas and must not be accessible to spectators.</p> <p>A minimum of 5 covered disabled places must be provided and for capacities should conform to the recommended disabled provision in sports grounds.</p>		

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<p><u>Designated Venues</u> Any <u>NEW</u> spectator accommodations i.e. seated stands or terraced stands (whether permanent or temporary) <u>must</u> be constructed and installed in line with the Safety of Sports Grounds (NI) Order 2006. Such stands must at all times hold the necessary planning permissions and building control confirmations.</p> <p><u>Non Designated Venues</u> It is <u>recommended</u> as best practice that any <u>NEW</u> spectator accommodations at non designated venues are constructed and installed in line with the Safety at Sports Grounds (NI) Order 2006. Such stands must at all times hold the necessary planning permissions and building control confirmations.</p> <p><u>Regulated Stands</u> Non designated venues constructing <u>NEW</u> spectator accommodations with an individual stand capacity in excess of 500 persons <u>must be mindful</u> of any applicable legislative requirements existing, or upcoming, in this respect.</p>	<p><u>Designated Venues</u> Any <u>NEW</u> spectator accommodations i.e. seated stands or terraced stands (whether permanent or temporary) <u>must</u> be constructed and installed in line with the Safety of Sports Grounds (NI) Order 2006. Such stands must at all times hold the necessary planning permissions and building control confirmations.</p> <p><u>Non Designated Venues</u> It is <u>recommended</u> as best practice that any <u>NEW</u> spectator accommodations at non designated venues are constructed and installed in line with the Safety at Sports Grounds (NI) Order 2006. Such stands must at all times hold the necessary planning permissions and building control confirmations.</p> <p><u>Regulated Stands</u> Non designated venues constructing <u>NEW</u> spectator accommodations with an individual stand capacity in excess of 500 persons <u>must be mindful</u> of any applicable legislative requirements existing, or upcoming, in this respect.</p>	