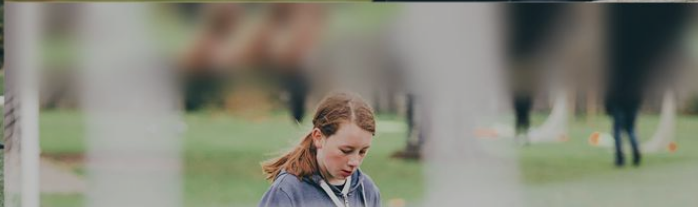


GRASS PITCH REVOLUTION

New funding to improve
football pitches

March 2021





WHY YOU ARE HERE

WHY YOU ARE HERE

Everyone here is potentially eligible to apply for funding to improve your grass football pitches if they meet the criteria.

Here's what we want to tell you about today:

1
*New funding available
for grass pitches*

2
*Where this funding
is coming from*

3
*What you can use
the funding for*

4
*What is required from
you and your club*

5
*How we will
support you*

6
How you can apply

THE FOOTBALL FOUNDATION

FOOTBALL FOUNDATION

The new funding for grass pitches is coming from the Football Foundation.

- The Football Foundation is the **Premier League, The FA** and **the Government's** charity.
- We exist to improve **grassroots football facilities**.
- The Foundation has invested more than **£710m** of the Partners' funding over the past 20 years in to more than **17,000 projects**.
- By improving local football facilities, we want to get more people involved in football, regardless of their **background, age** or **ability**.
- By **unlocking the power of pitches**, we can help transform the lives of players and strengthen communities.



THE STATE OF GRASS PITCHES

GRASS PITCHES TODAY

Source: Grassroots Football Survey 2018

Cuts in local authority funding have led to a decline in the quality of grass pitches in England.

Grassroots football clubs tell us that pitches are their biggest issue.



1 in 3

Only 1 in 3 grassroots pitches are rated as 'good' quality



1 in 8

Only 1 in 8 grassroots clubs are satisfied with the quality of their grass pitches



150k

150,000 matches were postponed during the last full football season

THE GRASS PITCH REVOLUTION

We are going to change this through a grass pitch revolution.

- Unprecedented investment in grass pitches by the Premier League, The FA, and the Government through their charity, the Football Foundation
- New performance standard for monitoring football pitch quality
- Ambition to have 5,000 'good' pitches by 2024, as part of the overall aim to have 20,000 quality grass pitches up and down the country over the next 10 years





**JOIN OUR GRASS PITCH
REVOLUTION**

WHAT IS AVAILABLE?

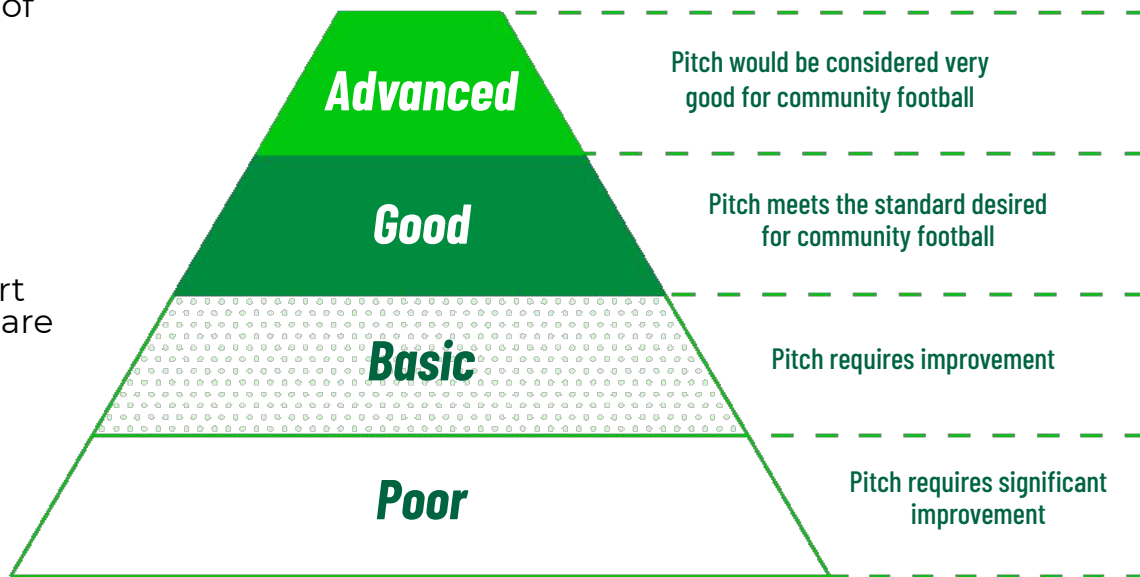
- A **10 year maintenance plan** to improve your pitches
- A **6 year grant**, providing up to **£2,500** inc. VAT for every one of your 11-a-side pitches in the first two years and tapered down over six years (**£2,000 for 9-a-side** and **£1,500 for Mini Soccer** pitches)
- Grants available to employ contractors, purchase materials and purchase a soil sampler
 - Separate grants available for pitch maintenance equipment and machinery
- Maintenance plan based on the recommendations in your **PitchPower Assessment Report**
- Grants are to improve **grassroots community pitches**. Pitches used for Step 1 - 6 are **ineligible**. Pitches in the Regional Feeder League (previously Step 7) may be eligible as long as the predominant usage is for grassroots community teams



WHAT IS THE AIM OF THE FUNDING?

- Improve and sustain the **quality** of grass football pitches
- The Grounds Management Association (GMA) has created a **new standard** for grass pitches
- To bring a minimum of **20,000 pitches** up to a “Good” standard

Your PitchPower Assessment Report will tell you what level your pitches are at.



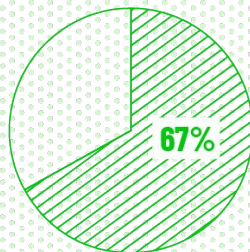
NB. Other standards exist for higher levels of the game.

WHAT SUPPORT WILL IT HELP PAY FOR?

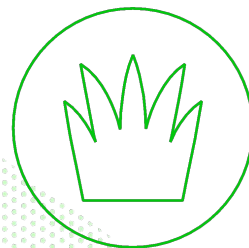
You can receive a grant to pay for a **pitch maintenance contractor** to help you improve your grass pitches with enhanced maintenance work.

 **10** yr

*A 10 year maintenance plan
determined by the GMA within your
PitchPower Assessment Report*



*The Football Foundation will
award 67% of the total cost
for the first 6 years of your
maintenance plan*



Grass pitch maintenance

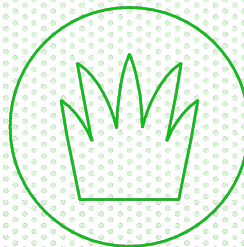
Slitting, Fertiliser
Selective Herbicide,
Scarification, Aeration
Overseeding

WHAT MATERIALS WILL IT HELP PAY FOR?

If you want to do it yourself,
you can receive grants to
support the **cost of
materials**.



*A Regional Pitch Adviser from the
GMA will recommend the appropriate
quantities and product type required*



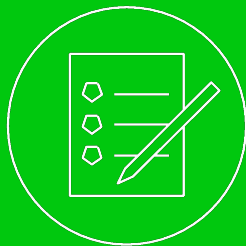
*Grants for grass seed
and fertiliser*



*You must have
qualified personnel to
carry out the works**

**GMA Level 1 or
equivalent*

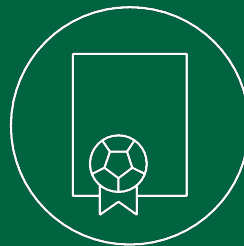
AM I ELIGIBLE?



Criteria No.1

***You have a PitchPower
Assessment Report***

- You are the freeholder, or:
- You have a 10 year lease / licence, or:
- You have written permission from the land owner



Criteria No.2

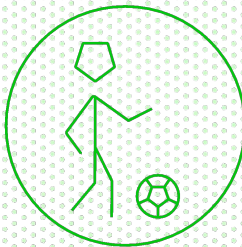
***You have permission
to do the work***

MACHINERY AND SMALL GRANTS ALSO AVAILABLE

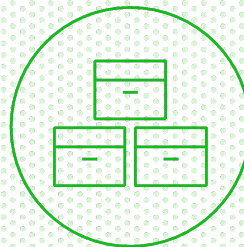
You can receive a separate grant of up to 75% of the total cost of any **machinery** required to improve your pitches.



Machinery and equipment requirements will be determined by a Regional Pitch Adviser from the GMA



Second-hand machinery is eligible



Storage container eligible for funding



Insuring & safely securing the machinery is a condition of award

WHAT CAN BE ACHIEVED?

**West Kirby
United FC
— Pilot —**

96

teams

11

pitches across 6
sites under Club, LA
and Schools
ownership

£1,800

per pitch has seen all of the pitches
go from below to exceeding the
new Good standard within one
season

Number of
postponed
matches
reduced
from:

24% > 4%



The background features a dark green field with a large, irregularly shaped area of bright green halftone dots on the left side. The text is centered horizontally across the boundary between these two green areas.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

We will help you identify the right work needed to improve your pitch

We are providing new tools to make it easy to manage the process

We will get you started with 100% funding for two years, paid in advance



You will be responsible for providing pitch assessments – 2 times per year, via PitchPower

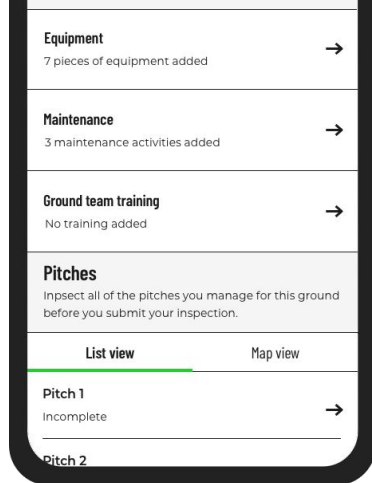
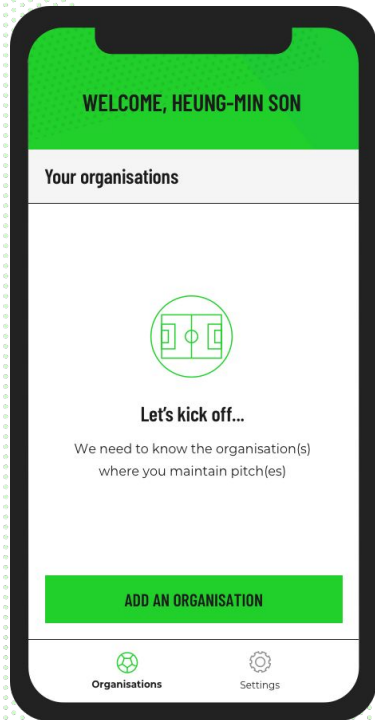
You will need to fund the maintenance plan to keep pitches at GOOD standard from year 7 onwards

The background of the image is composed of two main green areas. On the left, there is a large, irregularly shaped area with a bright green color and a fine, repeating dot pattern (halftone). This area is separated from the rest of the image by a dark green, solid-colored geometric shape that points towards the bottom left. The right side of the image is a solid, medium-green background.

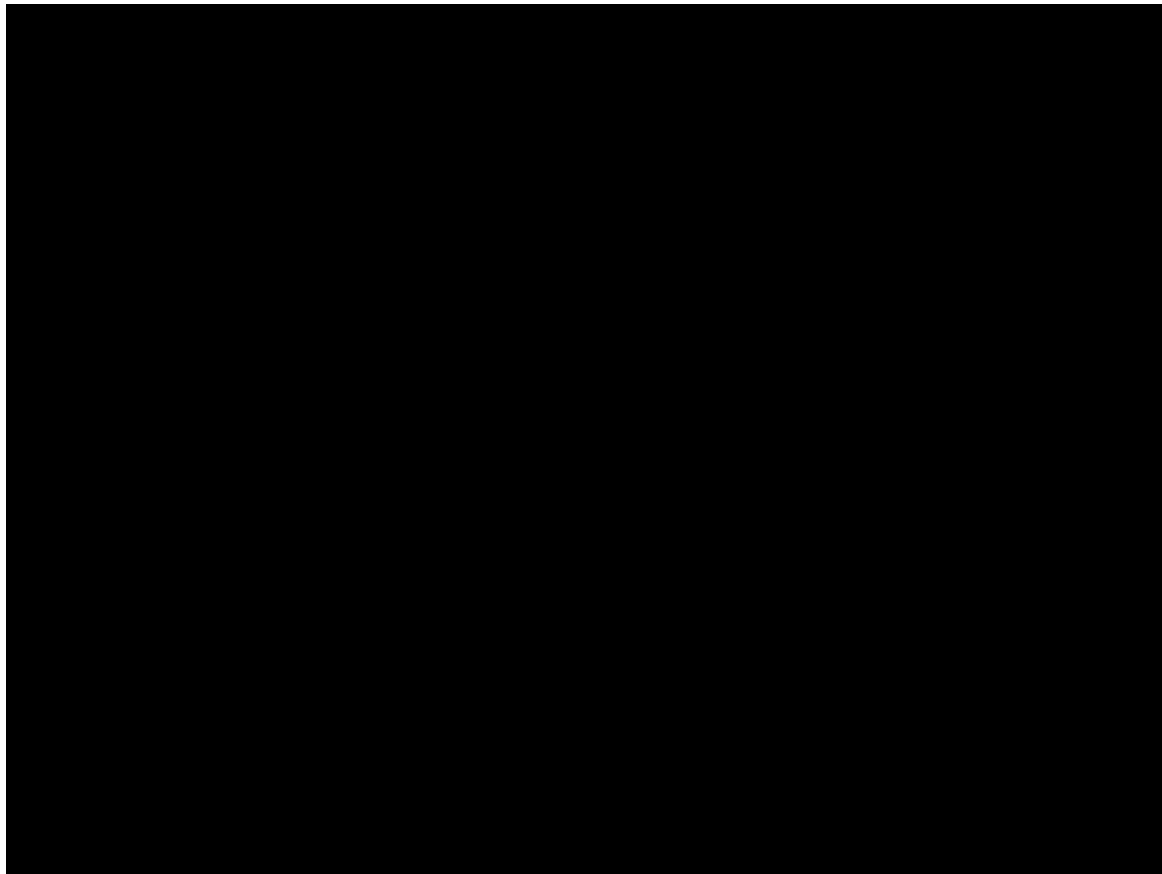
PITCHPOWER

PITCHPOWER

- Allows you to **input pitch information** yourself
- Significantly **reduces the time** it takes to receive the report compared with site visits
- Provides **ongoing advice** about how to improve your pitch
- Works via a combination of photographs (site condition and soil sample) and information input
- **Free** to download and use
- User guide and instructional videos on [Football Foundation website](#)
- Please ensure you use **PitchPower** on all pitches you want funding for/you maintain

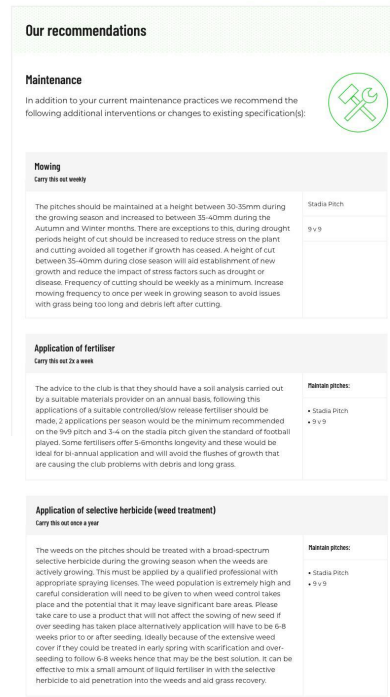
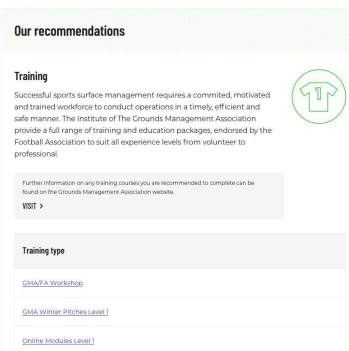


PITCHPOWER



PITCHPOWER – THE REPORT

- You'll need to submit your completed inspection before you can apply for any funding from the Football Foundation
- The GMA will review the information and assess the quality of your pitches
- You'll receive an assessment report from your Regional Pitch Advisor within 21 days of submitting your inspection
- The report will provide practical recommendations of how you can improve the quality of your grass pitches
- Reports are your gateway to funding

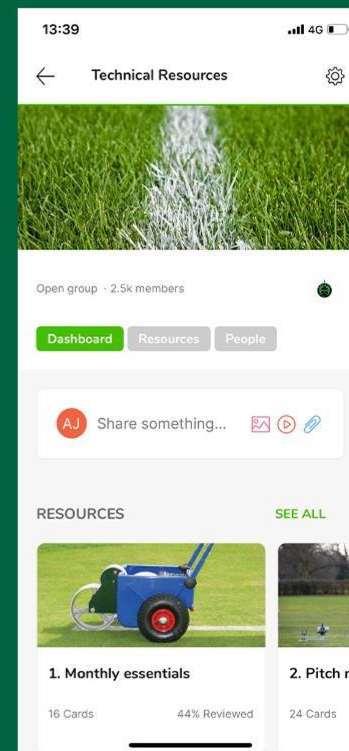
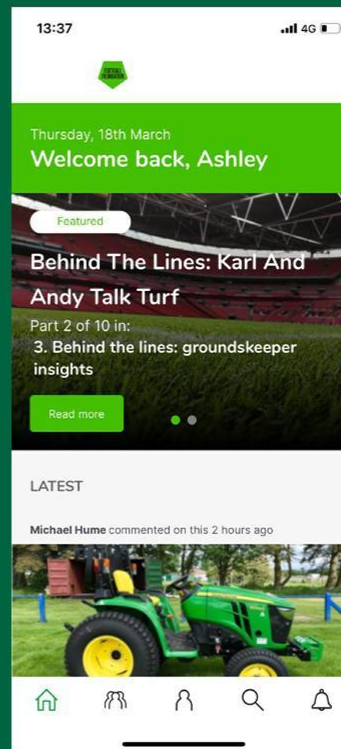


The background consists of several overlapping geometric shapes. A large green shape on the left features a white halftone dot pattern. This overlaps with a solid dark green shape. Another solid dark green shape is positioned at the bottom left. The right side of the image is a solid dark green area.

FOOTBALL FOUNDATION GROUNDSKEEPING COMMUNITY APP

CONNECTING THROUGH THE FOOTBALL FOUNDATION GROUNDSKEEPING COMMUNITY APP

- The Football Foundation Groundskeeping Community App is a free platform that helps connect you to expert grass pitch knowledge and support at the touch of a button
- Free to join
- Access ongoing advice and education about pitch maintenance
- Peer-to-peer advice
- Find specific guidance on season extension for 20/21 season



CONNECTING THROUGH THE APP – RENOVATION GUIDANCE (SUMMER 2021)

- Traditional May – Early June renovation will be affected
- Flexibility will be key. There may only be a short period (if any) between end of the 20/21 season and the start of the 21/22 season
- This doesn't mean operations can't take place. You can find guidance on an alternative renovation programme [here](#).

Careful consideration should be given to going ahead with capital projects such as drainage



Renovation Guidance (Summer...

Renovation Guidance (Summer 2021)

Part 2 of the 2 part series:

4. Support & Funding

With the announcement of the extension of the football season, the traditional May - early June full renovation will be affected. This does not mean operations cannot take place but the key will be flexibility. There may be only a short period between the end of the 20/21 season and the start of the 21/22 season, 4 to 6 weeks. Weather and recovery time will be against you.

Careful consideration will also have to be given to capital works with the extension of the season will there be enough recovery and time of establishment before the new season.



Reply React

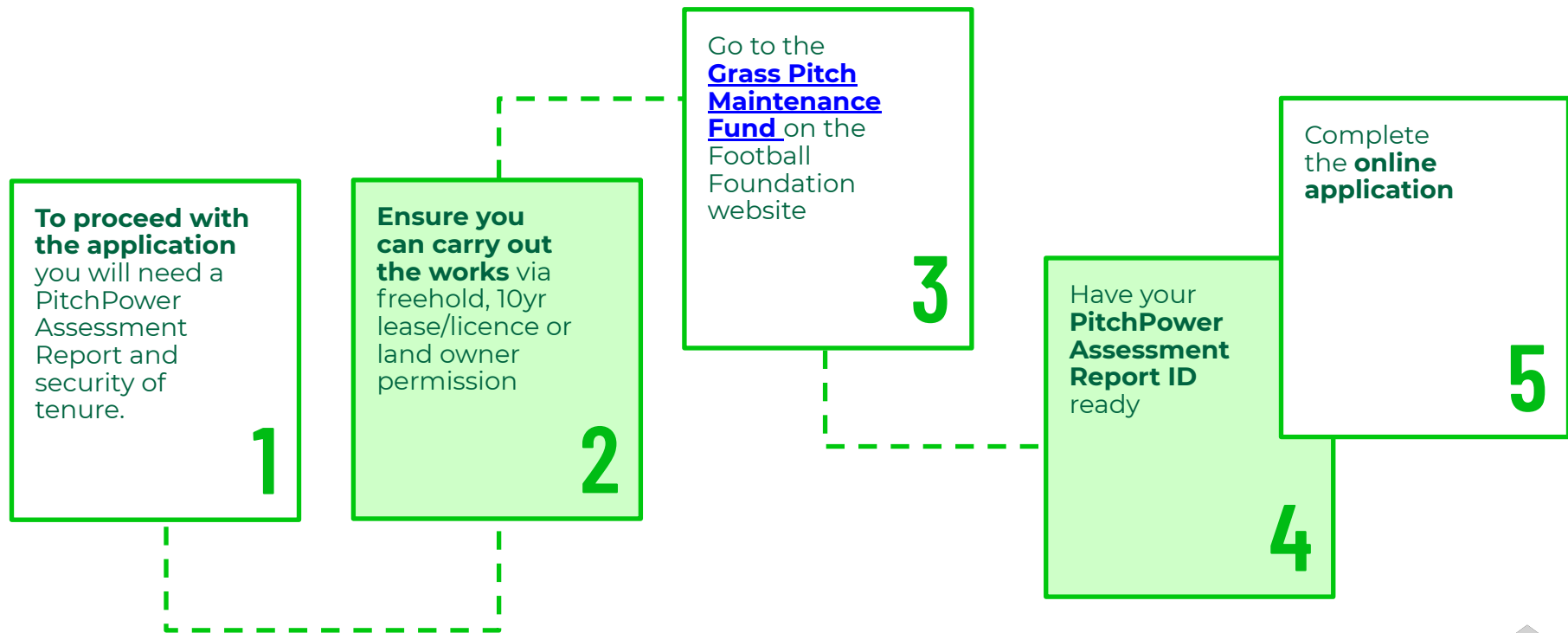
5 4



The background consists of several overlapping geometric shapes. A large green shape on the left features a white halftone dot pattern. This shape overlaps with a solid dark green shape on the right. Below these, there are more solid green shapes in various shades, creating a layered, abstract composition.

WHAT'S NEXT?

MAKE YOUR APPLICATION



MAKE YOUR APPLICATION

Funding is offered on a **first come first served basis**

6

You will find out if you're **successful** within two weeks for grants of less than £50k, up to four weeks for grants in excess of £50k

7

Tender and procure the works

8

Provide PitchPower inspections **twice a year**

9

Complete your **funding claim annually** to the Football Foundation

10

ACCESSING THE APPLICATION

TOGETHER
FOR FOOTBALL

GRANTS AVAILABLE

Football Foundation Funding



Please click here if you would like to apply for items such as new goalposts, grass pitch maintenance items or minor works to your changing rooms. A full list of eligible items will be listed on the first page.

Return to Football Fund



Please click here if you would like to apply for funding towards returning football or delivering new football activity.

START APPLICATION PROCESS

Click here



START APPLICATION PROCESS

ACCESSING THE APPLICATION

Click here

APPLICATION ASSESSMENT ¹

1 milestone outstanding

DELIVERY AND PAYMENT
Not started

Got a question? Read our FAQs below for some common solutions

MILESTONE	STATUS
<div data-bbox="1000 445 1058 506">1</div> <div data-bbox="1089 448 1392 473">You submit your application</div> <div data-bbox="1089 481 1224 503">View tasks ^</div> <div data-bbox="1103 550 1450 576">Complete the application form</div>	Outstanding
<div data-bbox="1000 623 1058 684">2</div> <div data-bbox="1089 637 1522 662">You submit your supporting documents</div>	Outstanding
<div data-bbox="1000 725 1058 786">3</div> <div data-bbox="1089 743 1605 768">We carry out an assessment of your application</div>	Outstanding
<div data-bbox="1000 826 1058 887">4</div> <div data-bbox="1089 845 1663 870">We make a decision on whether to fund your project</div>	Outstanding

PITCHPOWER ASSESSMENT REPORT ID



ASSESSMENT REPORT

FOOTBALL CLUB

Site ID:

Report ID Number

Report ID: XXXXyzFdU7noPqA9sQ7AIAS_0TyyU70

This report has been compiled for FC and FA
to provide information on the standard of the football pitches and
outlines recommendations on how to improve the quality and
maintenance of these pitches

ACCESSING THE APPLICATION

1. Tick this box

2. Report ID:
XXXX/3EVGxBO-2oXfx_0L
84AmF8E07DI

- ☒ Project selection
- ☐ Organisation
- ☐ Site
- ☐ Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund
- ☐ Declaration

Supporting guides

We have a range of guides to help you complete your grant.

[VIEW DOCUMENTS](#)

Save your progress

Need a time out?

[SAVE PROGRESS](#)

Introduction

Please use this form to provide us with details about you and your project.

You are able to save the form at any stage so you do not need to provide all information at the same time.

Have you read through the FF Small Grant Guidance Notes?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Project selection

Select your project items

☐ Changing pavilion and clubhouse refurbishment

☐ Fencing (including boundary or ball retention)

☐ Goalposts

☐ Grass pitch drainage

☐ Improvement of playing surfaces

☐ Maintenance machinery and equipment (3G)

☐ Maintenance machinery and equipment (Grass)

☐ Portable floodlights

☐ Storage containers

☒ Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund

PitchPower Assessment Report ID

This is the number before the first "/" in your Report ID. This number could be one digit or numerous digits. For example, if the Report ID is XXX/5iCvLlu8yN4PDFXVF-gWxLCzXyys the ID to enter below is XXX.

XXXX

SUBMIT ID

Project name

Please give your project a name

Questions

Thanks for joining us



Department for
Digital, Culture,
Media & Sport



**FOOTBALL
FOUNDATION**



**TOGETHER
FOR FOOTBALL**