



PITCHPOWER

Powered by
Football Foundation

USING PITCHPOWER *FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS*

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GETTING STARTED

How do I reset my password?

You can reset your password by visiting

[https:// pitchpower.org.uk/request-password/](https://pitchpower.org.uk/request-password/).

If you don't receive a reset password email, check your junk and spam folders. If it's not in your junk or spam folders, please email

pitchpower@footballfoundation.org.uk so we can look into this for you. Please note, this inbox is only monitored during office hours, Monday to Friday.

Can I add PitchPower to my home screen?

Yes. To add PitchPower to your homescreen on an iphone or ipad, open PitchPower in the safari app then tap the share icon at the bottom. Then tap 'add to home screen from the menu'. Next, type in a name for your shortcut and then tap the add button.

On android, open PitchPower in the chrome app. Tap the menu icon (3 dots in upper right-hand corner) and tap add to homescreen.

What happens if I add PitchPower to my home screen?

This will make it easier for you to access in the future. It will appear alongside your other apps so you can get straight into it next time.

I've not received the email to create my account. What shall I do?

First, check your junk and spam folders. If it's not in your junk or spam folders, please email

[pitchpower@ footballfoundation.org.uk](mailto:pitchpower@footballfoundation.org.uk) where we can look into this for you (please note this inbox is monitored during office hours, Monday-to-Friday).



THE PITCH INSPECTION PROCESS

GENERAL

How do I complete a pitch inspection?

To start, you'll need a mobile phone with a camera; a spade or soil sampler; and a tape measure or a ruler. PitchPower will guide you through every step of the pitch inspection process through hints, tips and handy how-to videos. Once you've completed your inspection(s) and submitted your results, these will go to our experts at the Grounds Management Association (GMA) to be assessed.

What will I get out of using PitchPower?

Once you've submitted your results, you'll receive a detailed assessment report within 21 days. This will provide an overview of the current quality of your grass pitch(es) as well as recommendations for next steps, including bespoke maintenance advice, potential funding opportunities and training courses

Why do I need to submit pitch quality data using PitchPower?

The Football Foundation is on a mission to transform the quality of grass pitches across the country. To do that, we need your help. By submitting your pitch inspection(s) data on PitchPower, we'll provide you with the support and guidance you need to improve or sustain your pitches to a 'Good' or higher standard. Better quality pitches mean less match postponements and more opportunities to play. Completing PitchPower inspections may also form part of the T&C's of your Football Foundation grant award.

There are multiple clubs who use our pitches - who should complete the inspection?

The club or organisation responsible for the maintenance of the pitches is best placed to complete the inspection(s). More than one person can be linked to a club/organisation on PitchPower so multiple people can login at the same time to complete inspections of different pitches.

How often do I need to use PitchPower?

Inspection data is required once per window. If you have not submitted your inspection data by the end of a window the data will not be saved within the web app. The application window dates are:

1 July - 31 October

1 November - 31 March

1 April - 30 June

Please submit as early in the window as you can to avoid missing a window deadline.

Do I need tools to carry out the pitch inspection?

Yes, you'll need:

- ◆ A spade / soil sampler
- ◆ A tape measure / ruler
- ◆ A camera phone / digital camera

My organisation isn't listed. What should I do?

If your organisation isn't on the list, please scroll to the bottom of the 'add organisation' screen and add a new organisation by following the link. This will give you the details you need to add your organisation.

My pitch is in the wrong place on PitchPower. Can I change it?

You can move your pitch to the right location on the web app. Just click on the pitch image and move it to the right location by using the 'Rotate' button. You can move your pitch by putting two fingers on the map and moving it around the pitch accordingly.

I maintain pitches at more than one ground. Can I use PitchPower for all of these grounds?

Yes. You can add all the grounds and pitches that you maintain.

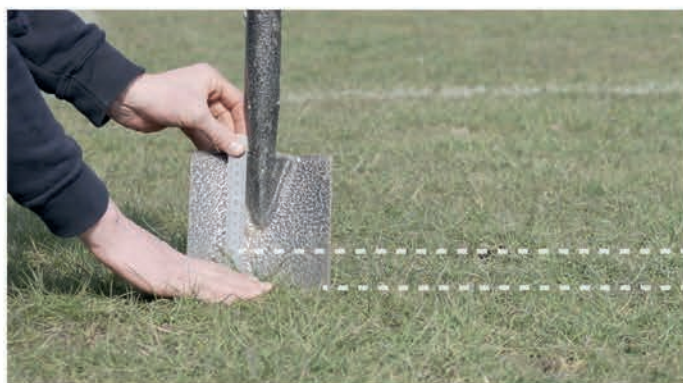
INSPECTING THE PITCH

How do I take a good picture of the grass height?

Place a tape measure or ruler upright on the ground to show the height of the grass from the base of the plant (where it meets the soil), to the tip.'

We're looking for the average grass height. The dashed lines on the image below shows an example of where you should measure.

You should use a solid object like a spade (shown below) to help hold the tape measure up against the grass.



How to take a wide angled image?

Please take a wide angled image of your pitch, to allow us to get a better view of playing surface.



How do I know if my goalposts are compliant?

Check out the goalposts and pitch layout section of our Football Foundation Groundskeeping Community which is available online. Just search the 'Football Foundation Groundskeeping Community' on your web browser and sign up for free.

How do I measure root depth?

Using a tape measure, start at where the soil meets the base of the grass and measure (in mm) down the longest visible root. Roots will be thin and wispy and either brown or white in colour.



Measuring Root Depth

How do I measure topsoil?

Topsoil is the soil in which grass grows healthily. It'll be approximately the same colour and consistency the whole way through. In order to give you the advice needed to keep it healthy, we need to know how deep it is. Use your ruler or tape measure to measure from where the grass meets the soil down to where the consistent layer of soil stops. The white markings below show an example of the area you should be measuring.



Measuring Topsoil

How do I take a good picture of the line markings?

Here, the images should be clear and line markings on the pitch visible. The image below shows an example of best practice.

How do I take a good picture of the goal mouth?

Please take an image that shows the general quality of the goal mouth and not directly in the bare patch the goalkeeper stands in as this can misrepresent the quality of the playing surface.

TIPS

Here are some good and bad examples of how to take an accurate photo of the surface profile.

Good examples

- ◆ Top down photo showing the surface.

Bad examples

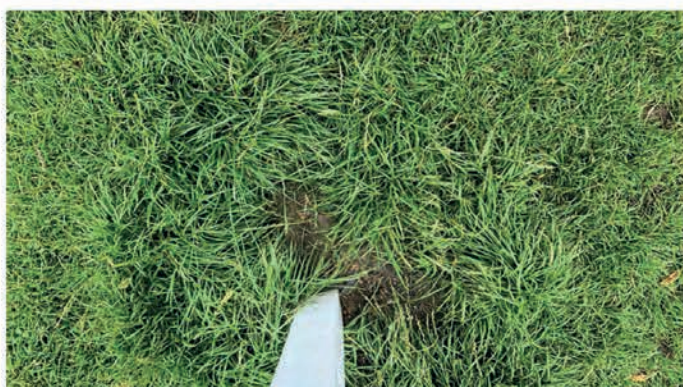
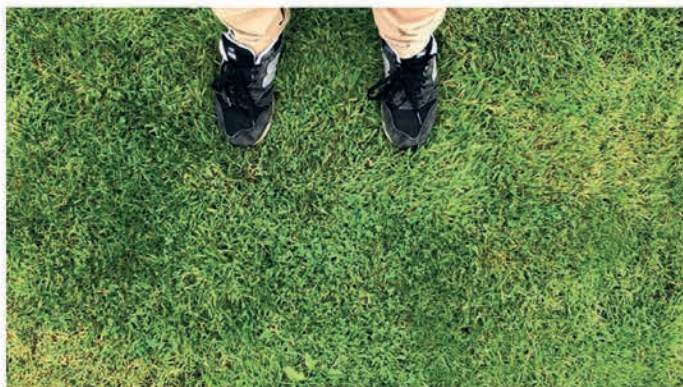
- ◆ Don't include yourself in the image
- ◆ Don't include goalposts in the image

Don't worry if there's a lot of bare ground on the pitch, however this shouldn't be included in your counting (weeds and grass only).

Good example



Bad examples



AFTER SUBMISSION

What happens after I've submitted my inspection?

Once you've submitted your inspection, the data will be reviewed by our experts at the Grounds Management Association (GMA). Within 21 days, you'll receive an assessment report by email. The report will offer various recommendations to support you to reach and/or maintain your pitches to a 'Good' standard (or better). If any more information is needed, a Regional Pitch Advisor (RPA) from the GMA will get in touch either by phone or email.

What if I forget to submit my data within the current window?

The pitch inspection data must be completed and submitted within the same window. If the data isn't submitted within the window, any data completed will be lost and there will be no assessment report provided for this window.

I've already submitted my pitch inspection. Can I make changes?

Once you've submitted your pitch inspection, you can't make any changes. Don't worry, the team will be in contact if they need any information. If there's something that you're really concerned about, please contact us by email at pitchpower@footballfoundation.org.uk.

Who will be doing the assessment report for my pitches?

One of our expert RPAs at the GMA will complete your PitchPower assessment report.

Why are there three submission windows?

There are many variables that can impact the quality of grass pitches (usage, weather etc). We want to be able to assess the quality of your pitch(es) throughout the year so we can provide you with the best support.

Will I still have a site visit?

If the inspection data submitted through PitchPower highlights an issue that needs further investigation, you'll receive a phone call or email and if necessary, a site visit.

SUPPORT AND TERMS & CONDITIONS

GENERAL SUPPORT

Is PitchPower an application for funding?

No, it's a web app for carrying out pitch inspections. After submitting your pitch inspection data, you'll receive an assessment report with bespoke advice and recommendations to improve your grass pitch. If your report recommends applying for Football Foundation funding, you'll be informed how to start that process.

I've got a question and can't find the answer here. What should I do?

Email us at pitchpower@footballfoundation.org.uk and we'll get back to you as quickly as possible (please note this inbox is monitored during office hours, Monday-to-Friday).

I've submitted my data through PitchPower but I think I've made a mistake - what should I do?

Contact us at pitchpower@footballfoundation.org.uk detailing your organisation, ground name and contact details so we can look into this for you.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

When I plot my pitches they don't all fit on my ground. What do I do?

Please don't worry if all of your pitches don't fit exactly as they do on your actual ground. Try your best to get them in the correct location.

PitchPower won't let me upload/submit my data. What should I do?

A mobile data (3G/4G/5G) or WiFi connection is required to submit an inspection. If there's no internet connection, you'll have to wait until you have a connection before you can upload and submit your data.

THE ASSESSMENT REPORT

Can I speak to a Regional Pitch Advisor?

After submitting your pitch inspection(s), you'll receive an assessment report with recommendations on how to improve your pitch(es). The RPA who completed your report may be in contact with you via email or phone should they need any more information.

I've already got a Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP) report that I paid for. Do I have to do it again?

Yes, you'll still be required to use PitchPower. This will be the system for all future grass pitch assessments and data collection.

Can I apply for grass pitch funding without an assessment report?

No. To apply for grass pitch funding, you must have completed a pitch inspection for the pitches you're looking to get funding for, and have received your PitchPower assessment report which evidences the need for funding. However, it doesn't mean you automatically qualify for a grant and your application will still be assessed against our funding criteria.

What should I do if I disagree with the recommendations of the report?

Please email pitchpower@footballfoundation.org.uk.

What are the terms and conditions of the PitchPower web app?

The full terms and conditions can be found on the Football Foundation website: <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/pitchpower-terms-and-conditions>

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

What products would you recommend I use to improve my pitch quality?

It's important to make sure you're using products that are suitable for your playing surface. You can find further information at the link below:

<https://footballfoundation.hivelearning.com/groundskeeping/>.

What training can I get in grounds maintenance?

The GMA offer a range of training suitable for volunteers including online training and practical sessions.

Find out more here: <https://thegma.org.uk/learning>.

You'll also have training courses suggested in PitchPower and recommended to you in your assessment report.

What is the Grounds Management Association?

The GMA is the leading not-for-profit membership organisation that supports and celebrates all grounds professionals and volunteers (formerly known as the IOG).

What is the Football Foundation Groundskeeping Community?

The Football Foundation Groundskeeping Community is a free online resource developed between the Football Foundation, The FA and the GMA.

The platform provides grounds maintenance advice and guidance from professionals and volunteers alike.

You can sign up for free at:

footballfoundation.hivelearning.com/groundskeeping.



GLOSSARY

Combination turf grooming tool:

This is the piece of equipment which attaches to the back of a tractor. It has up to four implements, the most common being a brush, rake, slitter and light roller.

Decompaction:

This is an operation to alleviate soil compaction and get air (aeration) into the soil. Common terms you may hear it referred to are: aeration, deep spiking, terra spike, verti-drain, groundbreaker, shockwave or earthquake.

Drainage:

This is how well or quickly water moves through your pitch through the soil. Essentially, this is how quickly your pitch dries and is playable following significant rainfall.

Fertiliser:

Fertiliser is an application of nutrients to feed the grass plant and soil. It usually comes in granules but can be in liquid form. This can be applied by a tractor operated spreader or a pedestrian walk-behind spreader.

Grass coverage:

Grass coverage is the amount of grass on your pitch. The better the grass cover on your pitch, the better your surface will be able to cope with wear and tear and provide a suitable playing experience.

Grass length:

This is the length of grass on your pitch. If the grass is too long or too short it can have a significant effect on plant health and the quality of playing experience.

Ground:

The site where you play your matches or train.

Metal cup hooks:

In the past, metal cup hooks were used to attach the net to the goalpost and crossbar. Due to a number of health and safety reasons, the hooks have now been banned.

National League System (Steps 1-6):

The National League System is the structure for senior men's football that operates directly below the English Football League (EFL), League Two. It stretches from the National League at Step 1 down to Step 6, and the Regional Feeder Leagues formerly known as Step 7.

Organisation:

Organisation is who you are associated with as a professional or volunteer.

Overmarked:

Some pitches have additional pitches marked within them e.g. an adult 11v11 pitch might have one or two mini soccer 7v7 pitches marked out within it.

Overseeding:

The application of grass seed to a pitch to improve the quality and quantity of grass cover. This can be carried out mechanically or by hand.

PQS – Performance quality standards:

A series of tests and measurements that are used to quantify the quality of a playing surface. This is the system and methodology that is used to identify your pitch grade.

Pitch Renovation:

These are operations or practices carried at the end of season in order to allow the pitch to recover and repair before a new season starts.

GLOSSARY

Renovation:

These are operations or practices often carried at the end of season in order to allow the pitch to recover and repair before a new season starts.

Root depth:

This is the measurement of how long the grass roots are on a pitch. The greater the root depth, the stronger and healthier the plant will be, enabling the grass to be able to withstand wear and tear and extremes of weather.

Roots:

Roots provide the grass with much needed food and water and also join the grass to the soil. The greater the root depth, the healthier and stronger the grass will be, helping it cope with extremes in weather, as well as wear and tear during the playing season.

Scarification:

Scarification is a process usually carried out mechanically using metal tines to remove thatch and undesirable material from your playing surface.

Selective herbicide:

Selective herbicide is a material used to kill weeds, without killing grass at the same time. It is important that only suitably qualified personnel carry out application of selective herbicide.

Soil profile:

It's important to know what's happening underneath your pitch surface. A healthy soil profile is important to provide the grass with stability, strong roots, food and water.

Surface Debris:

Any material that may be present on your playing surface that could affect the quality of matchplay or the ability to maintain the surface adequately. This may include: grass clippings, leaves, litter, animal faeces, etc.

Surface Grooming:

This is the action of brushing, raking or slightly rolling your pitch.

Top dressing:

This is the spreading of suitable topsoil or sand to your pitch, this can be applied by hand or mechanically.

Topsoil:

Topsoil is the uppermost layer of soil, and is generally the healthiest layer of soil providing the grass with much needed nutrition

Web app:

A web app is an application that runs on a web browser rather than being installed directly onto a smartphone or tablet.

Weed cover:

This is the amount (%) of weeds on your pitch.

Weeds:

In the context of a football pitch, a weed is any plant growing in your pitch that is not grass