

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE AMATEUR FOOTBALL LEAGUE



FACILITY AND PITCH STANDARDS - SEASON 2024-2025

The League has minimum standards for all of the venues that are used for the playing of our league and cup matches:

ACCESS

A formal agreement must be in place for the use of the facilities for the full season, for Saturday afternoons with a 1.00 to 3.30pm kick-off.

All venues must have adequate access for emergency services at all times.

PITCH REQUIREMENTS - PLAYING AREA SIZES

- Premier Division (minimum) - 100m long x 64m wide
- All other Divisions (minimum) - 91m long x 55m wide

PLAYING AREA

- Flat (within reasonable parameters).
- Well drained.
- Regularly cut and rolled.
- All lines are clearly marked, and markings are regularly refreshed.
- The playing area is free from holes, ridges and ruts.
- Grass pitches must have a reasonable covering of grass throughout the whole season.
- Pitch barriers are desirable, but not essential.
- Dug Outs and Technical Areas are desirable, but not essential.

GOALPOSTS

- Goalposts must comply with The FA safety standards for goalposts (<https://www.thefa.com/get-involved/goalpost-safety>), they must be safely installed and in good condition.
- Goal nets must be fitted properly to the frame and adequately fixed down to the ground.

CHANGING FACILITIES

BASIC REQUIREMENTS

- Changing facilities must be lockable, have adequate lighting and some form of heating and be kept clean and tidy.
- All facilities must have male toilet facilities and female toilets are also desirable.
- Adequate hot water is an essential requirement. Changing rooms should be within a reasonable walking distance of the pitch.

TEAM CHANGING

- It is a league requirement to have separate changing rooms for both home and away teams.
- Each changing room should be large enough to accommodate **SIXTEEN (16)** players with coat hooks for each player.
- A minimum of **FOUR (4)** shower heads per team must be provided and shower facilities for both home and away teams. Shared showers will be considered at the discretion of the League Management Committee.

OFFICIALS CHANGING

- Officials changing facilities must be separate from the teams.
- Changing room should be large enough for three persons.
- Separate shower and toilet are also preferable.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR 3G & 4G ARTIFICIAL PITCHES

The League approves the use of 3G and 4G venues for the playing of matches, especially during periods of inclement weather. There is a list of FA approved venues which can be found by searching FA 3G Pitch Register on www.footballfoundation.org.uk and **ONLY** pitches which appear on this register should be used.

3G and 4G pitches must comply with the pitch standards required by the League, and the following should also be considered:

- Surface integrity (i.e. no damaged areas of turf or trip hazards)
- Adequacy of 'run off' and standing areas (these should provide adequate clearance to move other equipment into. (i.e. 5-a-side goals)

The League is aware that there are certain companies and individuals within our area who will arrange the hire of 3G or 4G pitches for teams or clubs, especially at short notice and in times of inclement weather when they may be a shortage of available venues. However, clubs need to be aware, that when hiring pitches arranged by these bodies you will almost certainly pay a premium over and above the cost of hiring direct from the venue themselves.

Note: The League accepts that the pitch costs undertaken with this type of booking are inflated. Therefore, the League reserves the right to withdraw its offer of paying half of the pitch fee, when booked through an intermediary.

When hiring through such an intermediary, Clubs should always ensure that the following issues are covered:

- That the pitch offered is on the FA Register of Artificial Pitches.
- That the pitch complies with the requirements of the League in respect of size, run off areas and changing facilities for both teams and referee.
- That all of the necessary contractual agreements between the hirer and the pitch venue are in place.
- That the hirer has put in place all of the necessary the arrangements in respect of insurance and risk assessments required for the renting of the pitch.
- That your club's own insurances are not affected in any way by sub-letting arrangements being adopted for the pitch hire.