

## Regular maintenance

### Carried out by user/owner

- Remove weeds
- Remove moss, soil, leaves and pine needles
- Remove canteen waste
- Brush or drag mat
- Keep infill loose
- Monitor lines and seams
- Monitor penalty spot and goal area

### Remove weeds

Weeds can establish themselves, especially along the sides of the artificial grass. They are best removed by hand, taking care to pull out the roots as well and making sure that the sub-base is not damaged in the process. Weather permitting (sunny and dry weather for at least three days), weeds can also be removed with biodegradable herbicide.

### Remove moss, soil, leaves and pine needles

In autumn, leaves and needles from trees and bushes will fall on the pitch. If not removed promptly they will work themselves into the artificial grass pitch. This may affect the permeability, as will moss and soiling of the carpet pile. It is therefore important to remove such debris as soon as possible.

This can be done with a synthetic lawn rake, a sweeper or a blower. A blower gives the best result: blow leaves and needles to one side of the pitch, where they can be collected with a lawn rake and removed.

Take care not to point the nozzle too 'deep'. When using machines with engines make sure they do not leak oil as it is very difficult to remove oil from artificial grass. Moreover leaking oil can damage the back of the turf, which can cause the fibres to come loose.

### Remove canteen waste

Special care must be taken with 'canteen waste' like glasses, tins, mugs and cigarettes, or fireworks, chewing gum etc... Chewing gum can be best removed by use of a freezing spray. The majority of soiling of artificial grass is caused by the players themselves. To prevent this it is desirable that players wipe their feet thoroughly before entering the pitch area. This can be done in several ways, for instance:

- a dirt sluice with grids
- a walk-on - walk-off mat
- brushes
- box with shingle combined with a walk-on-walk-off mat.

Special signs near the gates will draw the players' attention to these regulations.

### Brush or drag mat

To keep the amount and the distribution of the artificial grass infill in optimum condition, regular brushing (starting from once a week) with a triangle/rectangular brush and/ or rubber drag mat needs to take place. Brushing or drag matting should be done on a regular basis.

It is recommendable drawing the brushing route on a ground plan. The surface should be brushed in alternating directions. It is not recommended to turn sharply or to stop abruptly. This work can be carried out in either dry or damp conditions. If a tractor is used, ensure that the wheel pressure is less than 0,75 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>.



### **Keep infill loose and topped-up**

In order to keep the rubber infill loose on top of the sand, brush the pitch every four weeks. This work can also be carried out in either dry or damp conditions.

If using a tractor, check the tyre pressure (it MUST be less than 0,75 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>). The level of the infill should also be monitored and topped-up if necessary to prevent damage to the fibres of the carpet.

### **Monitor lines and seams**

If lines, seams etc. come loose they should be repaired as soon as possible. A loose seam of about 0.5 metre may quickly become several metres unless quick action is taken.

### **Monitor penalty spot and goal area**

Extra attention should be paid to the penalty spot and the goal area: they may require early replacement. Topping up infill is required to prevent damage.

## **Vehicles on the surface**

No vehicles with narrow wheels or tyres should run over the surface. All vehicles should be light so as to not form grooves in the surface or compact the sub-base formation. When carrying out maintenance with a vehicle, the grounds person should slow down when manoeuvring and turn in a wide circle to ensure that the wheels/tyres do not dig in.

It is suggested that all turning circles are not less than 6 metres and no more than 10 metres in diameter. Type pressure MUST be less than 0,75 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>.

## **Recommendations**

- Check drainage
- Vegetation on the pitch
- Holding water
- Snow

### **Check drainage**

Manhole / Collecting pits and drainage pipes must be cleared out on a regular basis (once every 2 years). It is recommended that a specialist maintenance company is employed to do this.

### **Vegetation on the pitch**

Moss/weed killing should take place two or three times a year to ensure that vegetation does not accumulate on the pitch. Pesticides can be used for this, but please check the product for use on our artificial grass.

### **Holding water**

If for any reason the pitch retains water, expert advice should be obtained. Improper maintenance can cause the pitch to suffer from problems with water permeability. If this occurs, it is advisable to contact a specialist to help solving the problem.

### **Snow**

The removal of snow from the pitch surface is best undertaken with the use of a snowblower, rather than brushing or snow-ploughing. A blowing "fraise" will clear the pitch without exerting any pressure. Removal of snow by mechanical action may damage the fibres; pushing snow off the surface will put stress on the seams of the pitch.