

**REGULATIONS OF THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY FOOTBALL LEAGUE**  
**MINIMUM GROUND GRADING CRITERIA FOR ENTRY TO THE LEAGUE**  
**GRADING CATEGORY – I**  
**Step 7 – Membership Requirements**

**1. GROUND**

**1.1 Security of Tenure**

Where a club does not own the freehold of their ground then evidence of adequate security of tenure must be provided.

**1.2 Ground Share**

Ground sharing would be at the discretion of each league within the National League System, taking into account local circumstances. Where ground sharing is permitted the club must have sole control over and use of facilities on match days.

Ground sharing must not be allowed in order for a club to gain promotion to this league.

**1.3 Shared Facilities**

Where a Club share their facilities with a Cricket Club or other organisation which prevents exclusive use for football they must submit a written application to the league, dealing with the situation for HOME football matches in August September & May.

**Capacity**

There is no stated ground capacity at this level.

**1.4 Boundary of Ground**

There is no requirement for a ground to be enclosed in any way at this level

**1.5 Club House**

There should be a clubhouse facility either on or adjacent to the ground, which should be open on match days to provide refreshments to spectators.

Where there is a clubhouse facility, a telephone must be provided.

**1.6 Car Parking**

There should be adequate car parking facilities on or adjacent to the ground.

## 1.7 Pitch Perimeter Barrier

There must be a permanent fixed barrier of sound construction on all four sides, height of the barrier to be 1.1 metres.

The barrier, if other than solid wall type of construction may be in-filled. Advertising boards may be acceptable as a means of infill.

There must be a minimum of 1.83 metres, ideally 2 metres between the touchline, goal line and the pitch perimeter barrier.

## 1.8 Pitch Standards

The playing surface will be grass, unless otherwise authorised by the respective league Management Committee, and must be of a high standard. It must be level and free from surface depressions and excessive undulations.

The maximum slope allowable shall not exceed an even gradient of vertical to horizontal 1: 41 in any direction.

The playing surface must be maintained to the highest possible standards.

Artificial playing surfaces are not currently permitted in competitions under the control of The Football Association.

Set out below is the view of the International FA Board and FIFA with regard to artificial surfaces:

*“The Board recognised the advances in artificial surface technology and the major benefits of using artificial surfaces in areas of climatic problems. It also recognised that artificial surfaces allowed multiple and extended use of facilities in urban environments. The Board mandated FIFA to create clear procedures for the use of artificial surfaces, to unify the quality system and apply it worldwide, taking into consideration the best resources and knowledge available.”*

The matter is therefore under review.

## 1.9 Playing Area

The playing area is to be in accordance with the requirements of the Laws of the Game. The playing area must measure between **100—110 metres (110—120 yards)** by **64—75 metres (70—80 yards)**. The size of the pitch must be checked prior to the commencement of the season. **No Artificial Pitches are allowed.**

Goal posts and goal net supports should be of professional manufacture and conform to the current safety requirements and to the requirements of the Laws of the Game.

Reference should be made to the Goalpost Safety Information published by The Football Association and in particular, it should be noted that the use of metal cup hooks is prohibited.

### **1.10 Technical Area**

Covered Trainer's Boxes must be provided for both teams on match days to accommodate at least **6 persons**. They must be clearly marked '**HOME**' and '**AWAY**' set at least **3 metres** apart and should be situated equidistant from the half-way line.

There is a requirement for a Technical Area to be marked out as defined within the laws of the game. The Technical Area extends 1 metre on either side of the designated seated area and extends forward up to a distance of 1 metre from the touch line

### **1.11 Secure Walkway**

Clubs are to provide for safe passage for players and match officials from the dressing rooms to the field of play, which should be adequately stewarded.

### **1.12 Floodlighting**

Floodlighting is not compulsory at this level however, where it is provided it must be to an average lux reading of 120. No single reading can be less than one quarter of the highest reading so as to ensure an even spread of light.

Reading shall be on a grid of 88 markings (8 across, 11 down) evenly spaced with the outside readings falling on the pitch boundary line. The average of all the readings is taken to be the average illumination level in lux of the floodlighting installation.

The lux values must be tested every two years in accordance with current guidelines by an approved independent contractor. When new or improved installations are being planned, an average lux. reading of 180 should be provided.

### **1.13 Public Address System**

A public address system, whilst being desirable, is not compulsory at this level.

### **1.14 Entrances**

There is no requirement for fixed entry points at this level. However where a turnstile is installed, it must be fully operational and of the controlled revolving type.

### **1.15 Exits**

Where fixed exit points are provided, there must be sufficient to ensure the safe evacuation of the ground if necessary.

All exists must be clearly sign posted.

## **1.16 Lighting**

Whilst there installation is strongly recommended, neither working nor emergency light is any longer a grading requirement. Clubs are reminded that they have the responsibility to ensure safety of spectators entering, leaving and moving about the ground and, if a ground is used in non-daylight hours, adequate artificial lighting should be provided. Further, consideration must be given by a club to its procedure in the event of a power failure

## **1.17 Adjoining Pitches**

Where deemed that they are likely to interfere with the playing of a match, ball games will not be played on adjoining pitches whilst league or cup matches are in progress. An adjoining pitch is deemed to be where there is no natural barrier between pitches. There has to be a distance of 64 metres from either the touch-line or goal-line of the playing area.

## **1.18 Emergency Access**

Access for emergency services must be provided

# **2. SPECTATOR FACILITIES**

## **2.1 Seated Accommodation**

Seated accommodation is not compulsory at this level, however, where there is a main stand it must be constructed of timber/steel/brick/concrete or any combination of these materials. Open timber stepped stands are not permissible.

Where seating is provided, there should be a minimum of 50 seats. Whilst individual seats are preferred, existing bench seating may be permitted. In each case, all seats are to be clearly numbered.

Separate seating for directors/committee and guests is not compulsory at this level.

Standing spectators are not allowed in a seated spectator stand where they can obstruct views

## **2.2 Covered Standing Accommodation**

Covered accommodation is not compulsory, but where constructed of timber/steel/brick/concrete or any combination of these materials should be provided for a minimum of 50 spectators.

Hard standing is not compulsory, however, where it is provided it must be a minimum width of 1 metre, measured from the spectator side of the pitch perimeter barrier.

## **2.3 Toilets**

The following minimum toilet facilities must be provided:

- 2 Ladies WC's
- 1 Gents WC
- 2 Urinals or equivalent

In addition, there must be at least one hand basin in each Ladies and Gents toilet area, and warm air hand driers and/or paper towels together with a supply of toilet paper must be provided.

All toilet areas to be maintained to a high level of cleanliness.

## **2.4 Refreshment Facilities**

Refreshment facilities for spectators shall be made available on match days and may be of a temporary or mobile type. A club in default will be liable to a fine. (*See Fines Tariff*)

## **2.5 Disabled Facilities**

A club must take full account of the needs of disabled spectators and be mindful of its obligations under the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. Reference may be made to the publications/data sheets issued by both The Football Association and the Football Foundation.

No specific requirement is currently included in the Ground Grading Criteria but The Football Association strongly recommends that access is provided to both a covered viewing area and toilet and refreshment facilities.

## **3. DRESSING ROOM FACILITIES**

All dressing rooms must be secure, heated, well ventilated and free from damp

### **3.1 Players**

Separate dressing rooms must be provided for both teams. Existing dressing rooms dimensions will be in order, provided that they are of a minimum of 12 square metres. However, clubs wishing to progress should be aware of the need to increase to a minimum of 18 square metres. *Shower & Toilet areas must not be included in the dressing room area measurement.*

Each dressing room must have the following:

- A shower area comprising of at least 4 showerheads

- At least 1 WC and 1 wash hand basin.

All must have hot and cold running water

Ideally, there shall be a treatment table in each dressing room unless there is a separate medical room.

### **3.2 Match Officials**

Separate dressing rooms must be provided for match officials, the minimum size of which shall be 4 square metres excluding shower and toilet areas.

Each match official's dressing room must have the following:

At least 1 shower

At least 1 WC and 1 wash hand basin

Adequate toilet facilities which do not necessarily need to be situated in the dressing room.

Provision should be made for separate changing accommodation for both male and female match officials. When new changing rooms are being planned or existing changing rooms refurbished an area of 6 square metres and facilities for mixed gender match officials should be provided

There must be an audible warning device located in the match official's dressing room, which is linked to the player's dressing rooms.

**All dressing room areas to be maintained to a high level of cleanliness and secure on match days.**

## **4. MEDICAL**

There must be a suitable qualified person (minimum F.A. Save a Life) in attendance to assist with spectator problems unless the St John Ambulance Brigade, Red Cross Society or a comparable voluntary agency are in attendance. The person may be a club physiotherapist

*All clubs must provide first aid equipment at their ground including a stretcher, the location of which shall be clearly marked by notices placed in each team dressing rooms and the match official's room.*

## **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

**5.1** The home club is responsible for publishing a full match programme acceptable to the Management Committee for each of its competition matches played on a Saturday. An A4 printed double-sided sheet will not be considered sufficient to comply with this rule. Failure to comply will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

**5.1.1** The home club must place a minimum of 3 programmes both with the match officials and the visiting team. Failure to comply will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

**5.1.2** After each home Saturday game a MATCHDAY PROGRAMME must be sent to the General Secretary within 3 days of the game. Failure to do so will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

**5.2** The visiting club must send in writing to the home club details of the proposed team they plan to field together with their club history and up to date pen pictures of their current players registered with the Competition at least 5 days before the scheduled date of the match between the two clubs. Failure to do so will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

**5.3** Clubs will be responsible for all comments in their match day programme in respect of the Competition, or other member clubs, notwithstanding any disclaimers to the contrary. No part of a clubs programme issued for a match in any competition shall, in the opinion of the Management Committee bring the Competition into disrepute.

**5.4** A telephone must be easily available for emergency use.

**5.5** Access to the ground in an emergency must be provided.

**5.6** Adequate Public Liability Insurance must be provided.