

Regular maintenance of your synthetic grass facility will optimise playing performance, maximise the life expectancy of the surface and increase revenue.

The following information is for guidance purposes only and should be read in conjunction with any specific maintenance documents issued. Not all processes will be applicable to all facilities.

### GENERAL MAINTENANCE GUIDE:

#### Daily (after a day's play)

- General inspection of the pitch including seams
- Litter picking
- Leaf / flora collection

#### Weekly

- General inspection to include seams and general pitch condition
- Drag brushing / drag matting

#### Monthly

- Specialist power sweeping
- Specialist decompaction service

#### Annually

- Annual report
- Summer deep clean

#### As Required

- Moss & weed treatments
- Infill top-ups
- Line marking
- Surface rejuvenation
- Repairs / remedial work

### GENERAL MAINTENANCE

#### Litter / Flora Collection

Fallen leaves and litter should be removed from your synthetic pitch on a regular basis as they can quickly breakdown, contaminating the infill. Litter and flora collection should be carried out on (at least) a weekly basis.

#### Drag Brushing / Matting

Drag brushing or drag matting is an essential part of your synthetic pitch maintenance programme. The infill will naturally disperse towards the edge of the pitch away from the high traffic areas. As the infill acts as the wearing course, it is essential that it is returned to the high use areas in order to help prolong the life of the surface. The process is carried out by attaching a drag brush or drag mat to the rear of your grounds maintenance vehicle. This should ideally be carried out on a weekly basis, as per the Industry standard.

### Power Sweeping

Contaminants that build up on the surface of your synthetic pitch will need removing regularly to avoid them compacting at the base of the carpet pile, affecting playing conditions and creating problems with drainage.

The power sweeping process cleans the synthetic surface by removing, cleaning and relaying the existing infill using a specialist machine. This process utilises the machines powerful filters to remove contaminants and dust, before laying the clean infill back into the surface. Once the clean infill has been laid, a drag brush at the rear of the machine evenly distributes the infill, improving both the appearance and performance of the synthetic surface.

Depending on the effectiveness of in-house maintenance and the age and overall condition of the pitch, either a bi-monthly or quarterly power sweeping service is advised as a minimum. Where no in-house maintenance takes place, or where maintenance is less effective, power sweeping should be carried out more frequently.

### Chemical Treatments

Areas of your synthetic pitch which are affected by the growth of vegetation, moss and algae require specialist chemical treatment to kill the spores. Many facilities are surrounded by trees or vegetation which increase the potential for the development of moss or vegetation within the carpet. By treating the perimeter of the facility on a regular basis this will help to prevent the ingress of potential hazardous vegetation.

Any changes in health and safety legislation should be taken into consideration prior to the use of chemicals. Always refer to the supplier of the chemical to ensure its suitability for use.

### Infill Levels

To ensure the maximum life expectancy of your synthetic pitch, it is essential that the correct infill levels are retained. Too little or too much infill can have a detrimental effect on the performance, appearance and wear rate of the surface, which is estimated at an average of no more than 1mm per annum.

Over a period of time, infill can either compact inside the surface pile or be removed altogether by players footwear or adverse weather. In this situation, it is important that infill levels are increased in order to prevent health and safety issues arising and avoid the premature wearing of the surface fibres.

As the carpet pile wears down over the years this can leave infill levels high across the surface, presenting a potential slip hazard to users of the facility. In these circumstances excess infill should be removed to leave the facility in a safer condition.

### Drainage

Manhole/catchment pits and drainage pipes should be cleared out on a regular basis, if water stands on the surface after heavy rain, it is important to check the drainage system thoroughly by examining the outlet and the pipe drainage system to ensure that it is fully operational. Rodding of the drains may be required to clear any blockages. If the drains are clear, check the surface porosity as poor drainage may be a result of dirty or contaminated sand within the surface pile.

### Line Marking

At some point in your pitch's life, you may decide to incorporate a different sport and therefore require additional line markings to be integrated. As a short term solution, specialist line marking paint can be applied and is ideal for 'seasonal sports'. These paints can last over 12 months and will have no detrimental effect on the playing performance of the pitch. Alternatively, line markings can be cut in to the synthetic surface, providing a permanent solution.

### **Summer Deep Clean**

The Summer Deep Clean process is the ideal way to back up the regular maintenance during the summer months. This process works by getting much deeper into the carpet, cleaning the existing infill and then re-dressing the infill back into the carpet. This process is best carried out in the Summer months as the infill needs to be as dry as possible to be effective.

### **Surface Rejuvenation**

This deep cleaning process can reinstate the playing and draining characteristics of the surface by removing the majority of the infill and replacing it with brand new, fresh infill to bring the facility back to 'as new' condition. This process can help to add additional life to a surface when replacement is not an option and the overall safety of the facility has deteriorated due to poor drainage.

### **Vehicles**

Do not allow vehicles or equipment with narrow wheels or tyres to run over the surface. All equipment should be tested prior to use to ensure no grooves or carpet rucking is evident.

### **Footwear & General Care**

Always ensure that the correct footwear is worn on your synthetic grass pitch. If the pitch is used for multi-sports, a studded boot with a stud length on 1/4 of an inch will be satisfactory. METAL STUDS MUST NOT BE USED. All footwear should be clean when entering the facility.

Your synthetic pitch and its surrounding area should be a no-smoking zone as a discarded cigarette will melt the surface fibres, leaving an unsightly mark. Chewing gum and the use of glass bottles should also be banned.

### **Signage**

Appropriate signs should be erected displaying information to the user on simple rules which need to be observed to ensure everyone can enjoy the pitch in a safe environment.