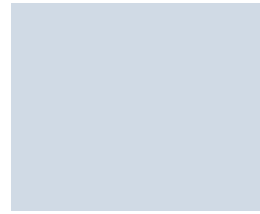


Good practice sports ground inspection form



Ground

Notes for each category of observation are on the reverse sides of this sheet
Any one observation may render the ground unsafe

Surface Evenness

Observations	Are bare areas at such different levels to the grass surrounds to cause stability or tripping hazards?	Yes / No
	Are there holes, undulations, worn areas and sprinkler areas that might cause players to trip, or fall?	Yes / No
	Are there variations between the cricket wicket area and the surrounds	Yes / No
Analysis	Any YES response to the above observations means problems exist. Review your responses and indicate how significant this aspect of the ground safety is. Remember that aspects of ground safety can be less than ideal, but still safe for play.	Not significant Very significant
Decision	In terms of overall ground surface safety the evenness of the field is such that conditions for players and officials is	Safe Unsafe

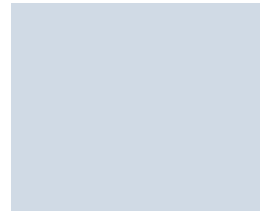
Grass Cover

Observations	The percentage of grass cover is estimated at	<25% <50% <75% >75%
	Does the percentage of grass cover under 50% present a hazard to players and officials?	Yes / No
	Are there weeds, tussocks or bare patches that could cause stability problems for players	Yes / No
	Is the grass length (or variations) likely to cause a player to trip	Yes / No
Analysis	Any YES response to the above observations means problems exist. Review your responses and indicate how significant this aspect of the ground is. Remember that aspects of ground safety can be less than ideal, but still safe for play.	Not significant Very significant
Decision	In terms of ground surfaces safety the grass cover of the field is such that conditions for players and officials is	Safe Unsafe

Shock Absorbency

Observations	Are the ground conditions in terms of softness, firmness and hardness an issue for player safety?	Yes/ No
	Is this condition uniform over all the ground	Yes / No
	Are there cracks in the sports ground surface	Yes / No
Analysis	Any YES response to the above observations means problems exist. Review your responses and indicate how significant this aspect of the ground condition is. Remember that aspects of ground safety can be less than ideal, but still safe for play.	Not significant Very significant
Decision	In terms of ground surfaces safety the shock absorbency of the field is such that conditions for players and officials is	Safe Unsafe

Good practice sports ground inspection form



Observation notes

Surface evenness

The sports ground surface should be level, flat and even. This should be considered at two levels: of whole of ground and parts of ground.

Uneven and denuded areas created by sport dimension markings can be hazardous.

Uneven ground surfaces are evident in the form of bare patches of bare ground and tufted grass, holes and undulations, a raised cricket table with unstable filling of different composition to the surrounds are all examples of potential hazards in terms of unevenness.

For whole of ground evaluation the person(s) inspecting the ground seeks to conclude that the overall sports ground surface is even and there are not undulations, holes, tussocks or other raised surfaces that present a tripping or falling hazard to players and officials.

As stated in the match day and training checklist observation notes this hazard is evaluated through a visual scan and this can be assisted by an inspection of a suspect uneven surface by walking across it with eyes shut such that if it makes the person feel very unsure about their footing indicates that this area requires repair.

Grass cover

Ideally sports grounds have a consistent 100% grass cover, as the percentage of bare areas increase the risks associated with this increase.

The safety issues relate to bare patches being at a different level to the grassed surface causing an uneven surface and the different traction characteristics as players move from one area to another.

Weeds, tussocks and tufts of different grasses can also lead to an undulating and uneven surfaces. Tripping and jarring injuries are the likely consequences.

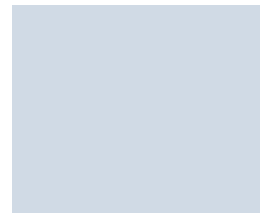
Shock Absorbency

Shock absorbency is the extent to which a surface absorbs the impact of a player running on the surface. Sportsgrounds can feel soft, firm or hard.

Shock absorbency is influenced by soil moisture, soil type and grass cover.

Extremely hard surfaces may lead to soft tissue injuries caused by falling and to joint injuries caused by compressive forces.

Good practice sports ground inspection form



Grip

Observations	Are there sections of the ground with different surface characteristics (bare patches, sandy sections)	Yes / No
	Is travelling from grassed to ungrassed sections likely to cause either slipping or grip problems	Yes / No
Analysis	Any YES response to the above observations means problems exist. Review your responses and indicate how significant this aspect of the ground is. Remember that aspects of ground safety can be less than ideal, but still safe for play.	Not significant Very significant
Decision	In terms of ground surfaces safety the grip of the field is such that conditions for players and officials is	Safe Unsafe

Other Hazards

Observations	The ground is free from debris (glass, stones, faeces, windrows, etc)	Yes / No
	Sprinkler heads and taps are covered and level with the surrounds	Yes / No
	The perimeter fencing and signage is safe and secured	Yes / No
Analysis	Any NO response to the above observations means problems exist. Review your responses and indicate how significant this aspect of the ground is. Remember that aspects of ground safety can be less than ideal, but still safe for play.	Not significant Very significant
Decision	In terms of ground surfaces safety the hazards on the field are such that conditions for players and officials is	Safe Unsafe

Ground Profile

OBSERVATION FOCUS	SAFE OR UNSAFE	Remedial action required to enable play
Surface evenness		
Grass cover		
Shock absorbency		
Grip		
Other hazards		

The ground surfaces at _____ has been reviewed by LGA representative _____ and Club representative.

We believe that that the ground is currently **safe / unsafe** for play.

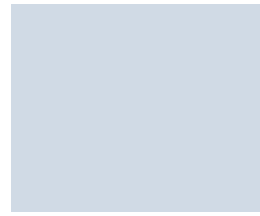
We recommend the following maintenance action on the ground: _____

Signed _____ Date _____

LGA rep _____

Club rep _____

Good practice sports ground inspection form



Observation notes

Grip

Both slip resistance and traction are important characteristics of sports ground surfaces and the interaction with players through their footwear.

A player must have enough grip on the surface to accelerate and decelerate at will.

If there is insufficient grip a player may slip which can result in loss of stability and balance and result in ligament and muscle damage.

Conversely too much grip can entrap a body part such as a foot whilst other parts move differentially leading to ankle, knee and hip injuries.

The player surface must also allow players sufficient traction to change direction at will.

Other Hazards

Aspects of the Good Practice Match Day and Training Checklist are used here to highlight particular hazards known to increase the likelihood of player injury.

Ground Profile

A ground profile is produced when the person(s) inspecting the sports ground have to make a judgement whether, overall and on balance, the ground is safe for play.

The decisions made for individual ground components are aggregated.

For a ground to be considered unsafe for play there must be clear evidence and a strong belief that the likelihood and consequences of the surface conditions creating unreasonable risk for players and officials is evident.

We must be able to say that a ground is closed for safety reasons, not aesthetics or horticultural standards.

The concept of asset protection may indeed lead to ground closure but this matter should not be clothed in safety discourses.

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