

Pitch Inspection Check List

This check list is designed to assist all club officials and volunteers to ensure that all pitches are safe to play on prior to any training session or match. It is best carried out by the coach or manager of EACH team, and any issues reported to either the home club or match official (club based referee or appointed referee).

Pitch Check List		Reasoning	✓ ✗	Comments
Step 1	Weather Conditions	<i>Recent and current weather conditions play a big part in pitch safety. Have the recent weather conditions adversely affected the playing surface, check that the surface is safe and fit for purpose.</i>		
Step 2	Goal Posts & Nets	<i>Are the goals post safe and secure. Test by applying forward and side ways pressure to the uprights, check cross bar is secure and nets installed correctly.</i>		
Step 3	Corner Flags	<i>Make sure that the corner flags are installed and are of the correct height and size for the age group using the pitch.</i>		
Step 4	Pitch Inspection	<i>Walk around one half of the pitch whilst the other team manager does the opposite half and ensure that the pitch is clear of rubbish, tape, strapping, broken tree branches and debris from winds, dog feces and any other waste matter</i>		
Step 5	Pitch Markings	<i>Pitch marking should be visible to ensure fair play and that players can play on safe inspected pitches, these can be painted lines or lines marked by cones, where lines are not visible.</i>		
Step 6	Pitch Conditions	<i>Football is a winter sport so ground conditions will vary from match to match. The referee may decide if the pitch is suitable to play on according to Fifa Rules, in the absence of a referee the 2 coaches or managers should discuss pitch conditions and take into account, water or rain, muddy patches, softness, hardness, snow, grass length, holes and uneven surfaces, and any other environmental hazard that may exist or be present. REMEMBER PITCH CONDITIONS CAN CHANGE THROUGHOUT THE GAME.</i>		
Step 7	Recheck at Half Time	<i>Take a second opportunity at half time, and prior to the restart to ensure that the pitch is still a safe place to play.</i>		

If the coaches, manager, match officials or team captains have concerns over the pitch conditions the over riding factor should always be player safety first. Where a pitch is does not pass a safety inspection, this should be reported to the home club and by email to Mainland Football who may pass on the concerns to the City Council to address where they have some responsibility