



Ground Grading Rules for Season 2023/2024

1 Clubs wishing to be considered for Promotion from the Dorset Football League and / or Other Leagues, must make an application giving their notice of intention, in writing to the Dorset Premier Football League General Secretary **by the 31st December** in any Year and at the same time give notice of their intention also in writing to the General Secretary of the League currently being played in.

2 FULL Applications by Clubs, **MUST** be made in writing to the Dorset Premier Football League General Secretary, **AND must be** accompanied by the League Entry Fee of **£50.00** which shall be returned in the event of non-election **by the 1st May** in any Year.

If Elected, New Clubs entering the Competition must also pay a **£50.00** Deposit which will be refunded if they leave the Dorset Premier Football League within the Competition Rules.

3 On receiving a FULL Application, with the applicable Documentation Required & Fees **by the 1st May** in any Year. The League's General Secretary will arrange for a Ground Grading Inspection to be carried out, to be scheduled, **No later than MAY 24th in any year.**

(New) Clubs applying for membership will be invited for interview by the League Management Committee to its meeting in May. *(Scheduled for the Last Thursday)*

PLEASE NOTE

ALL items appertaining to the League's Ground Grading Criteria must be in place at the time of the Scheduled Inspection, including any documentary evidence to support the Grading Works
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If further works are identified following this inspection, they must be **COMPLETED IN FULL** by, the 3rd Saturday in June in any Year.

Please contact the League's General Secretary for details.

4 A non-returnable Grading fee of **£25.00** will be charged to ALL New Clubs seeking membership of the Dorset Premier Football League and an appropriate fee to cover expenses will be charged to existing member Clubs requesting an inspection for upgrading purposes.

5 Where a Club does not own the Freehold of their Ground Then Evidence of at least 3 Years Security of Tenure **MUST** be provided **at the time of the FULL Application**. This will be in line with the principles of Rule 2.3.2 from the FA's Standardised Rules.

6 Any Club having previously been a member of the Dorset Premier Football League will be re-graded before being considered for re acceptance into membership, except those Clubs relegated or seeking demotion from Step 6 of the National League System who have already attained the "G" grading.

7 Clubs **MUST** provide a copy of their last Committee meeting minutes and an up-to-date detailed Financial Statement to include Income & Expenditure, **at the time of the FULL Application**



- 8 All New Applying Club Secretaries MUST have full access to E-mail & Internet Services and will be required to Read & Fully understand the Rules of the Competition(s) as laid out in the League handbook
- 9 The Dorset Premier Football League is an **ENGLAND FOOTBALL ACCREDITED LEAGUE** awarded in 2011 (*previously as the FA Charter Standard League.*)



ALL Clubs wishing to gain membership to the Dorset Premier Football League, unless they already hold an England Football Accredited Award will be given a Maximum of 1 Year to Attain the minimum Charter Standard.

(For the purpose of this Rule the 1 Year Timescale starts 1 day after the Scheduled AGM.)

| RULE | | DATES REQUIRED BY | FEE |
|-----------------|---|--|----------------|
| 1 | Notice of Intention | By 31 st December in any Year | |
| 2 & Lg Rule 4 A | Full Application | By 1 st May in any Year | £50.00 |
| 4 | Ground Grading Fee <i>if applicable</i> | By 1 st May in any Year | £25.00 |
| | If Elected | | |
| 1 & Lg Rule 4 C | League Deposit | 7 Days after advertised AGM | £50.00 |
| | League & Cup Entry Fee – Part A | 7 Days after advertised AGM | £200.00 |
| | League & Cup Entry Fee – Part B | On or before the 1st February in each year | £100.00 |
| | Entry Forms A & B | 7 Days after advertised AGM | |



GRADING CRITERIA

1. GROUND

1.1 Security of Tenure

Where a Club does not own the freehold of their ground then evidence of at least 3 years' security of tenure must be provided. This will be in-line with the principles of Rule 2.3.2 from The FA's Standardised Rules.

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.

1.3 Capacity

There is no stated ground capacity.

1.4 Boundary of Ground

There is no requirement for a ground to be enclosed in any way.

1.5 Clubhouse

A clubhouse facility, whilst being desirable, is not compulsory. If a clubhouse facility exists either on or adjacent to the ground, this should be open on match days to provide refreshments to spectators.

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 pitch perimeter barrier, which shall be of solid construction (i.e. steel, concrete or wood stanchions, with steel cross tubes). Ideal height should not exceed 1.1 metres.

Any barriers installed at new grounds should be purposely designed, with integrated infill panels as required and be made from UPVC or coated metal.

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

There should 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 Rules and must be of an acceptable standard. It must be free from depressions and excessive undulations.

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

3G football turf may only be used provided conditions (i) to (v) below have been met (the Performance Standard“):

(i) The pitch must be surfaced with 3G football turf that has laboratory type approval according to the FIFA Quality Concept for Football Turf (2012 & 2015 editions) – FIFA Recommended One Star/Quality level.

(ii) The 3G football turf pitch must be listed on The Association's register of 3G football turf pitches before use is permitted.



(iii) Where a 3G football turf pitch is not yet listed on The Association's register (for example if it is a newly installed pitch), a Club must obtain a Laboratory Performance Test Report and submit it to The Association.

(iv) The Association reserves the right to instruct a Club to have its pitch tested at any time in order to ensure that it meets the Performance Standard. All such tests shall be at the Club's expense.

(v) The 3G football turf, including run-offs, shall be one continuous playing surface and shall be green in colour at least one metre from the outer edge of the touchline and goal line. All line markings shall be in accordance with the Laws of Association Football.

It should be noted that:

To achieve the FIFA Quality performance standard that a pitch must be a minimum of 100 metres x 64 metres. • For a Club to use a 3G football turf pitch at Step 6 or above it would be subject to annual testing, which would be at the Club's expense.

1.9 Playing Area

The playing area is to be in accordance with the requirements of the Laws of the Game. Law 1 states that the length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.

Length - Minimum 100m (109 yds.) Maximum 120m (130 yds.)

Width - Minimum 64m (70 yds.) Maximum 90m (100 yds.)

It should be noted that at Grade H the playing area must be a minimum of 100 metres x 64 metres, and this is the recommended minimum size at Step 7.

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 booklet published by The Football Association.

1.10 Technical Area

Trainers' boxes must be provided and clearly marked 'HOME' and 'AWAY'. These shall be of solid construction, and seat at least 5 persons.

Portable trainers' boxes are permitted and must be securely fixed when in use.

A Technical Area shall be marked out in accordance with the guidance contained in the 'Laws of the Game' booklet.

1.11 Secure Walkway

A secure walkway is not a requirement.

1.12 Floodlighting

Floodlighting is not compulsory at this Grade.

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 is not compulsory.



1.14 Entrances

There is no requirement for fixed entry points. However, where a turnstile is installed, it must be fully operational and be 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 exits must be clearly signposted.

1.16 Adjoining Pitches

No other matches shall be played on adjoining pitches whilst League or Cup matches are in progress.

1.17 Emergency Access

Access for emergency services should be provided.

2. SPECTATOR FACILITIES

2.1 Seated Accommodation

Seated accommodation is not a requirement.

2.2 Covered Standing Accommodation

Covered standing accommodation is **DESIRABLE** but not mandatory and if provided must be for a minimum of 50 people. This must be of a solid construction.

2.3 Hard standing

Is not compulsory, however, where it is provided it must be a minimum width of 0.9 metres, measured from the spectator side of the pitch perimeter barrier where provided.

2.4 Toilets

Toilet facilities for spectators must be provided on ground and must also be separate to the Players & Match Officials

2.5 Refreshment Facilities

Refreshment facilities for spectators must be available on match days and may be of a temporary or mobile type.

3. DRESSING ROOM FACILITIES

3.1 Players

Separate dressing rooms must be provided for both teams. Existing dressing room dimensions will be in order, provided they are of a minimum of 12 square metres, excluding shower and toilet areas. However, Clubs wishing to progress should be aware of the need to increase to a minimum of 18 square metres. Where Clubs are planning to build new changing rooms, these must be planned to be a minimum size of 18 square metres, excluding shower and toilet areas.

Each dressing room should have the following:

A shower area comprising of at least 3 working shower heads - if not located in the dressing room then they must be located adjacent to it.

Hot and cold running water

Adequate toilet facilities exclusively for the use of players - if not located in the dressing room then they must be located adjacent to it, and they must not be accessible to the general public.

Shared shower facilities are not acceptable.



Ideally, separate toilet facilities should be provided for each team.

It is not acceptable for players and match officials to share toilet facilities.

In order to be considered for promotion to step 6, clubs must have en suite shower and toilet facilities with a minimum of 4 shower heads.

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 officials' changing room should have the following:

At least 1 working shower head.

Hot and cold running water.

Adequate toilet facilities, exclusively for the use of match officials, which must be separate from those provided for the players. These do not necessarily need to be situated in the dressing room but must not be accessible to the general public.

Provision should be made for 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.

In order to comply with the G Grade after promotion to Step 6, clubs must provide en suite shower and toilet facilities for the match officials.

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 FA Save a Life) in attendance.

All Clubs must provide first aid equipment at their ground.

All Clubs are required to have a Medical Emergency Action Plan (MEAP), or equivalent, in place. A copy of which must be submitted to the League General Secretary, no later than 1st August in each year displayed in a prominent public area in the clubhouse and/or dressing rooms.

