

**Swindon Borough
Playing Pitch Assessment**

2016-2021

Appendix 9

Draft FA 3G Scenario Paper

PPS Scenario: Increasing the use of 3G Football Turf Pitches (FTPs)

During the last decade 3G FTPs have played an increasing role within the national game. They are regarded by the Football Association (FA) as the optimum facility for training by clubs. In recent seasons they have also become more popular for competitive matches. With this in mind, before developing the recommendations and action plan for this PPS, two scenarios have been looked at to help with understanding what demand there may be for full size¹ floodlit 3G FTPs in [insert LA name], if increased amounts of play were to take place on them.

In order to do so, information from the 'Assessment' stage of developing this PPS, alongside details from the FA, have been used to help answer the following questions:

How many full size floodlit 3G FTPs may be required to meet demand within [insert LA name] if:

- i. All teams playing competitive football had access to a full size floodlit 3G FTP to train on once a week?
- ii. All matches for teams currently playing competitive football on [insert LA name] managed natural grass pitches were played on full size floodlit 3G FTPs?

The answers to these questions are set out below and are based on full sized floodlit 3G FTPs which have full community use during peak periods². However, the results should be viewed as providing an indication of the 'full size pitch equivalents' that may be demanded. In practice, the most appropriate ways of meeting any such increase in demand will vary depending on the nature of the local area. For example, in some areas new full size floodlit FTPs may be appropriate, whereas in others small sided provision to cater for increased training use, or securing greater community use/hours of existing provision may be the best way forward.

Given the above, what the answers may mean for the [insert LA name] area, taking into account the wider findings from the Assessment stage of developing the PPS, is also presented below. These details have been used to help inform the development of the PPS's recommendations and the action plan (see pages X to X).

Scenario Results

- i. If all teams playing competitive football had access to a full size floodlit 3G FTP to train on once a week.
 - As a guide the FA suggest that 1 full size floodlit 3G FTP could potentially accommodate this training demand from 42 teams (Ratio of 1:42³).
 - The information from the Assessment stage of this PPS indicates that there are X teams playing competitive football in [insert LA name].
 - Using the FA's 1:42 ratio suggests that X full size floodlit 3G FTPs would be required to meet this increased training use within [insert LA name].

¹ A full size 3G FTP measuring 106m x 70m including run off/safety margins.

² Weekdays 17:00 - 21:00 (or 19:00 on Fridays) and 09:00 - 17:00 on weekends.

³ The FA developed the training ratio following their facilities strategy vision to provide all affiliated clubs with access to a 3G FTP for training. An original ratio of 1:56 was based on a full size pitch providing 56 slots per week (Mon-Thurs 6-9pm, Fri 6-8pm). The ratio was subsequently revised to 1:42. This was due to evidence of a number of local authority areas reaching the perceived required number of 3G FTP facilities based on the 1:56 ratio yet still evidencing latent demand. Further FA analysis of 3G FTP facility usage also showed that many affiliated teams seek more than one slot for training and that significant amounts of non FA affiliated and recreational demand also use 3G FTPs during the peak time, creating a need for further 3G FTP provision.

Commented [JF1]:

1. FA suggested scenario and wording to use with PPSs from September 2016.
2. Relevant FA representative to highlight the potential scenario at initial Stage A meeting/engagement with a LA.
3. Scenario to then be looked at when a LA is beginning to undertake Stage D (i.e. after the assessment details are complete and prior to developing the strategy recommendations and action plan).
4. Template text provided in this document can be used and inserted into the strategy document.
5. Results of the scenario need to be looked at in the local context of the specific LA area to indicate what it may mean for the area, and as appropriate fed into the development of the strategy recommendations and action plan.

Commented [JF2]: Note to user (2):

Includes all teams from the assessment work (i.e. not just FA affiliated teams)

Commented [JF4]: Note to user (4):

Need to look back at the assessment details and pull out the number of teams.

Commented [JF5]: Note to User (5):

Include figures for sub areas if sub areas are used for football (add below text as a new bullet point and additional lines per sub area)

This authority wide figure breaks down as follows across the different sub areas:

- i. [insert sub area 1 name] = X teams suggesting a demand for X 3g FTPs.
- ii. [insert sub area 2 name] = X teams suggesting a demand for X 3g FTPs.

ii. If all matches for teams playing competitive football on [insert LA name] managed natural grass pitches were played on full size floodlit 3G FTPs.

- The FA is keen to work with LAs to understand the potential demand for full size floodlit 3G FTPs should all competitive matches, currently played on LA managed natural grass pitches, be transferred to one.
- Table 1 takes information from the Assessment stage of this PPS to present the number of teams playing on LA managed natural grass pitches (not including school sites or sites leased to clubs) and the relevant peak periods.

Table 1: Number of teams playing on LA managed natural grass pitches

Pitch Type	Pitch Size	Peak Period	No. of Teams
Adult	(11v11)	[Enter e.g Sunday AM]	[Enter e.g. 50]
Youth	(7v7)	[Enter]	[Enter]
Youth	(9v9)	[Enter]	[Enter]
Youth	(11v11)	[Enter]	[Enter]
Mini	(5v5)	[Enter]	[Enter]
Mini	(7v7)	[Enter]	[Enter]

Commented [JF6]: Note to user (6):
Need to look back at the assessment details and pull out the number playing on LA managed sites only (excluding school sites or sites leased by the LA to clubs).

- The FA suggest an approach (see below) for estimating the number of full size floodlit 3G FTPs that teams may demand for competitive matches. Table 2 presents the results of this approach for the teams set out in Table 1.

Table 2: Number of 3G FTPs that may be required

Format	No Teams per time (x)	No matches at PEAK TIME (y)= x/2	3G units per match (z)	Total units required formats (A)=(y)*(z)	3G pitches required B= (A)/64
5v5 (EG)	25	13	4	52	1
5v5		0	4	0	0
7v7		0	8	0	0
9v9		0	10	0	0
11v11(Y)		0	32	0	0
11v11(A)		0	32	0	0

Commented [JF7]: Note to user (7):
Double clicking on the Table 2 should 'activate' the table and allow you to then enter the team numbers from Table 1 above into column x. The table should then automatically calculate to present the results based on the FA approach. If you then click off the table and it should reset itself into this word document.

- Transferring all matches for teams currently playing competitive football on [insert LA name] managed natural grass pitches may equate to a demand for X full size floodlit 3G FTPs for all the different formats of the game.
- The FA approach for estimating the number of full size floodlit 3G FTPs that teams may demand for competitive matches is based on:
 - A team playing a 'home' match every other week - therefore dividing the number of teams by two with the result rounded up to provide a figure for the number of matches a week during the peak period (Table 2 Column y).

Commented [JF8]: Note to user (8):
Total column B in Table 2 and insert total figure here.

Commented [JF9]: Note to User (9):
Use Table 2 to also calculate figures for sub areas if sub areas are used for football. For brevity it is suggested that just the below text for any sub areas is included as opposed to a full Table 2 for each. Ensure the final Table 2 in the word doc shows the figures for the LA wide area.

This indicative authority wide figure breaks down as follows across the different sub areas:

- [insert sub area 1 name] = may equate to a demand for X full size floodlit 3g FTPs.
- [insert sub area 2 name] = may equate to a demand for X full size floodlit 3g FTPs.

- A 3G FTP being available for 4 hours⁴ a day during the peak period (e.g. 10am to 2pm). Therefore, all demand being programmed over the four hour period.
- Using a unit measure which can be applied to the different formats of the game to quantify how a pitch can be used during this 4 hour period (Table 2 Column z). One unit is taken as equating to a quarter of a full size 3G FTP for 15 minutes. Therefore, a full size 3G FTP provides 4 units per 15 minutes and 16 units per hour. Across the four hour period this totals a capacity of 64 units (16 units per hour x 4 hours).
- As set out in Table 3 below, each format of the game will require a certain amount of units of a full size 3G FTP per match based on the required pitch size and match duration.

Table 3: FA set units of a full size 3G FTP per match for each format.

Format of the game	No. of pitches that fit on a full size 3G FTP	No. of matches per hour on a full size 3G FTP	No. of matches per 2 hour period on a full size 3G FTP	Number of units per match
5v5	4	4	8	4
7v7	2	2	4	8
9v9	2	2	2	10
11v11 Youth	1	0	1	32
11v11 Adult	1	0	1	32

Current Supply

- There is currently a total of X full size floodlit 3G FTPs available for community use and club training.
- [All or X] of the total 3G FTPs are listed on the FA's 3G FTP register⁵ and deemed suitable for competitive matches.
- [All or X] of the total 3G FTPs are available for what could be expected to be the full community use hours across the week (or very close to the full hours).
- X of the total 3G FTPs have particularly restricted community use hours.
- There are a further X full size 3G FTPs which are not currently floodlit.
- There are a further X full size 3G FTPs currently unavailable for community use.
- There are a further X small sided 3G FTP sites providing X small sided pitches.

Commented [JF10]: Note to user (10):
Include if relevant for the local area.

What this may mean for 3G FTP provision in [insert LA name]

Note to user (11)

The LA (and their consultant if applicable) in discussion with the FA, should set out what the above details may mean for the local area and any sub areas (if applicable). This needs to be set out here, discussed with other parties as appropriate (e.g. other NGBs), and fed into the development of the PPS recommendations and action plan.

As stated above, the results of the scenario should be viewed as providing an indication of the 'full size pitch equivalents' that may be demanded. In practice, the most appropriate ways of meeting any such increase in demand will vary depending on the nature of the local area.

⁴ The rationale for 4 hours is based on a standard approach for match programming nationally and the ability to facilitate 2 adult games.

⁵ The FA has established a 3G FTP register to help users identify facilities that are fit for purpose for competitive matches <http://3g.thefa.me.uk/>.

Below are some questions which may guide the discussion and the content of this section:

- *What is the likelihood that the scenarios (in full or in part) would be taken forward locally e.g. is there the desire locally to do so (LA, FA, clubs)?*
- *How is the game currently played locally (e.g. current use of central venues for youth football) and therefore what is the ease with which any scenario could be implemented?*
- *To what extent do teams in the area currently use 3G provision (full sized and other provision) for training use and competitive matches?*
- *How are existing full sized 3G FTPs (and any appropriate small sided provision) used and is there currently enough capacity within the existing provision to meet any additional demand from such increased use?*
- *If there is not enough capacity within the existing provision can existing full size 3G FTPs be enhanced to provide increased capacity to help meet any increased demand (e.g. lighting, securing greater access to educational provision)?*
- *Are existing full size 3G FTPs in the right location, with the right access and availability, to meet any increased demand?*
- *Does the geography of the area (and sub areas), along with the location and nature of demand, lend itself to increasing the use of full size floodlit 3G FTPs (e.g. bearing in mind catchments, extent of demand needed to serve a full size 3G FTP, areas with dispersed and no large concentrations of demand), or should other solutions be looked into?*
- *Is there potential to convert other types of full size artificial grass pitches to a 3G surface to help meet any increased demand without adversely affecting, and where possible improving the situation for, other sports that use such pitches?*
- *If new full size 3G FTPs are required are there any existing or new sites where more than one can be located to create a hub site?*
- *If either or both scenarios were implemented (in full or in part) what may it mean in relation to the current costs for the LA of maintaining natural grass pitches and any levels of subsidy provided?*
- *Note: There may be occasions where the use of the FA's training ratio suggests, when compared to the level and capacity of existing provision, that there is no additional demand for 3G FTPs despite feedback from stakeholders raising concerns with accessing such provision. Where this is the case then the local situation, using the details from the assessment stage of the PPS, should be looked into further (e.g. catchments of provision, location of demand, programming and usage of pitches). This should then be discussed with your FA representative (RFIM/CFA) to help develop and propose relevant recommendations and actions.*