

# FAW Regulation for the use of Synthetic Turf in all Competitions

## Definitions

**FIFA One Star** Field certification as defined in the FIFA Quality Concept for Football Turf

**IATS** International Artificial Turf Standard. Technically equivalent to the FIFA One Star Category, available for fields supplied by synthetic turf manufacturers that are not FIFA Quality Concept for Football Turf licensees.



## Conditions sanctioning the use of synthetic turf pitches

Where sanctioned by the competition rules, synthetic turf pitches may be used in football competitions in Wales, provided the pitch is listed on the FAW's Register of Artificial Grass Pitches.

*Note* The register is maintained by the FAW to ensure synthetic turf pitches have the ball/surface and player/surface interactions that are suitable to allow the game of football to be played in the traditional manner. The register is not a list of approved or certified pitches or products and no FAW endorsement of any pitch or product appearing on the list is given or implied.

To appear on the register a pitch shall satisfy the following conditions:

### Condition 1

The playing characteristics of the pitch shall satisfy the requirements of Table 1. Registration of the pitch by the FAW is for specified period or until the synthetic turf surface is replaced, whichever comes first, subject to a pitch showing continued compliance with Table 1.

If during an FAW spot check a pitch is found to fail the requirements of Table 1 the FAW may, at its discretion, allow continued use of the pitch for the remainder of the playing season. At the end of the season all necessary remedial works (including resurfacing) shall be undertaken to enable the pitch to comply with the certification requirements.

Testing of a pitch and applying to the FAW for registration of the pitch is the responsibility of the Club wishing to play on it. In the event of more than one Club or team playing on the same pitch each Club or team is required to apply for the pitch to be registered for their use, although the pitch need only be tested once.

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All costs incurred in the annual testing of a pitch (test laboratory fee, remedial works etc.) are the responsibility of the Club. The FAW makes no additional charge for the registration of a pitch.

<b>Table 1 – performance requirements for synthetic turf pitches to be used all competitions.</b>				
<b>Category of competition</b>	<b>Type of test</b>	<b>Level of performance / certification required</b>	<b>Frequency of pitch certification</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Welsh Premier League and Welsh Cup competition	Initial test	FIFA One Star / IATS	Prior to competitive matches taking place	1
	Re-test	FIFA One Star / IATS	Annual – tests may be undertaken up to three months in advance of a current certificate expiring	2
All other competitions	Initial test	FIFA One Star / IATS	Prior to competitive matches taking place	
	Re-test	FIFA One Star / IATS or Table 2 below	Pitch to be recertified once every two years.	3
1	Clubs are advised to ensure the installation of a synthetic turf field makes adequate allowance for any bedding-in period recommended by the surface manufacturer prior to the pitch being tested			
2	If a field is consistently found to pass the relevant test criteria, demonstrating a programme of adequate maintenance is being undertaken the FAW may, at its discretion, decrease the frequency between tests to a maximum allowed by FIFA (once every four year)			
3	If a field is consistently found to fail the relevant test criteria, demonstrating a programme of inadequate maintenance is being undertaken the FAW may, at its discretion, increase the frequency between tests to annual testing to ensure player welfare is maintain			
Fields shall be tested in accordance with and in the positions defined in the FIFA Quality Concept for Football Turf (2012 edition)				
Independent test laboratories accredited for the testing of Football Turf by FIFA shall undertake the tests. Details of authorised laboratories may be obtained from the FAW or FIFA.				

### Commentary

The FAW have adopted the FIFA One Star category of field certification as being most appropriate for their senior competitions and all new fields on which competitive matches will be played.

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If any Club qualifies for a UEFA competition and wishes to use its synthetic turf pitch for home matches it will need to also satisfy UEFA's competition regulations, these currently require synthetic turf pitch used in UEFA competitions to hold FIFA Two Star certification.

<b>Table 2 – Re-test requirements for lower level competition pitches</b>		
<b>Characteristic</b>	<b>Test Method<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Requirement</b>
Vertical ball rebound	FIFA 01 / EN 12335	60cm - 120cm
Ball roll	FIFA 03 / EN 12334	4m – 14m
Shock Absorption	FIFA 04a	55% - 70%
Vertical deformation	FIFA 05a	4mm – 11mm
Rotational Resistance	FIFA / EN 15301	25Nm – 50Nm
Surface Regularity	FIFA 12	No undulation greater than 12mm

The performance requirements detailed in Table 2 allow marginally greater ball rebounds and ball rolls than those specified for FIFA One Star re-tests. The modified requirements reflect the increased deterioration in performance that is commonly found on community fields subjected to higher levels of use. The player / surface requirements are the same as specified by FIFA.

### **Condition 2**

The synthetic turf pitch, including run-offs, shall be one continuous playing surface. It shall be green in colour. All line markings shall be white and in accordance with the Laws of Association Football. Any other lines on the field used for Welsh Premier League or Welsh Cup matches shall be masked out prior to any competition match. For all other competitions, relevant Association and League approval shall be sought prior to a match taking place.

### **Condition 3**

The home Club shall allow their opposition the opportunity to use the pitch and train on the surface two hours prior to the kick-off, for a period of 45 minutes, unless mutually agreed by both clubs. There must not be another game or event on the pitch following the training period. If it is intended to water the pitch before the match the pitch shall also be watered prior to the training period.

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### **Condition 4**

The Club using the synthetic turf pitch shall advise their opponents at least 10 days before the match of limitations or recommendations on the types of boot or stud that may be used on the surface.

### **Condition 5**

The Club shall provide all necessary assistance and data relating to player assessments, injury records, maintenance etc as requested by the FAW, FIFA or UEFA.

