

Tier 3 Ground Regulations

The 'A Criteria' contained in this document were agreed by the National Game Board at their meeting on 23rd October 2017.

All other criteria, stated in the FAW Tier 2 Ground Regulations, are to be included in the FAW Tier 3 Ground Regulations, as 'B' criteria, which is recommended criteria, but not mandatory. Clubs wishing to participate at Tier 3 of the FAW Pyramid in the 2020/21 season, must achieve the following criteria by 30th April 2020.

I.02 – Approved Capacity Level **(A criteria)**

1. The Applicant must have in place an approved capacity level, which is relevant and safe for all competitions. The minimum capacity for Tier 3 clubs is 500.
2. The Applicant must;
 - a. have in place at least 100 covered seats, which are in compliance with criteria I.15.
 - b. Or, for clubs promoted to Tier 3 at end of the 2019/2020 season must have 50 seats on 30th April 2020 to meet the seating requirement for Tier 3 criteria to remain in the League for the 2020/21 season. The same club would require the full criteria of 100 seats by 30th April 2021 to meet the seating requirement for Tier 3 criteria to remain in the League for the 2021/22 season.

I.04 – Public Communication System **(A criteria)**

1. The stadium must be equipped with a public communication system.
2. The public communication system should cover **all areas of the stadium** and be secured against failures of the main power supply.

I.05 – Field of Play **(A/ B criteria)**

The field of play must be smooth and level.

1. The stadium must be equipped with either a natural playing surface or football turf. **(A criteria)**
2. Football turf must meet all of the following conditions: **(A criteria)**
 - a) It must have been granted the required FIFA licence in accordance with the FAW Regulations for synthetic pitches;
 - b) It must meet all the requirements of the national legislation in force;
 - c) Its surface must be green and marked with white lines.
3. **(B Criteria)**
4. The field of play should be 105 metres long and 68 metres wide. If this is not possible due to stadium constraints, the minimum allowable is 98m long and 62 metres wide. **(A criteria)**

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5. There must be a grass verge or alternatively artificial turf of the minimum width of 1.5 metres between the touch line and the perimeter barrier. It is recommended that this distance is 3 metres. (A criteria)
6. Barriers or emergency gates must surround the perimeter of the pitch. (A criteria)

1.06 – Warm-Up Area (A criteria)

A warm-up area for substitutes must be available along the touchlines, behind the advertising boards behind the goal or on a separate area.

1.07 – Goals and Spare Goals (A criteria)

1. Goalposts and crossbars must be made out of aluminium or similar material and must be round or elliptical. Moreover, they must be in compliance with the Laws of the Game as promulgated by the International Football Association Board (IFAB), which means, in particular, that:
 - a) the distance between the posts must be 7.32m;
 - b) the distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground must be 2.44m;
 - c) the goalposts and crossbars must be white;
 - d) they must not pose any danger to players.

1.08 – Substitutes' benches (A criteria)

- a) The Stadium must be equipped with two covered benches at pitch level, each with seating room for at least 8 people and positioned either side of the Halfway Line. The two benches must be on the same side as each other.
- b) Clubs should consider that any developments to the Substitutes benches should the capacity to 13 people.

1.09 – Dressing Rooms (A criteria)

1 The Stadium must be equipped with:

- a) A dressing-room for each team with a minimum of four showers, seating room for at least 18 people and exclusive use, with private access to one individual seated toilet.
 - b) A referees' dressing-room with a minimum of one shower, access to one exclusive individual seated toilet and seating room for three people.
- 2 Clubs must make provision to provide a safe access and egress for both teams and the referees from their dressing-rooms to the playing area and ensure their safe arrival at/departure from the stadium.

1.13 – Parking Areas (A criteria)

1. Parking space for a minimum of ten cars must be made available for the teams and officials.

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2. This parking space must be located in a safe and secure area in the immediate vicinity of the players' and officials' area.

1.14 – Refreshment Facilities

(A criteria)

1. Clubs must provide Players and Match Officials with food and drink after the game.

1.15 – Stands and Spectator Facilities

(A criteria)

1. Seats for spectators must be individual, fixed (e.g. to the floor), separated from one another, shaped, made of an unbreakable and non-flammable material and have a backrest of a minimum height of 30 cm when measured from the seat.
2. The use of temporary stands is prohibited.
3. The stadium must be equipped with Refreshment and Catering facilities for all spectators in every sector of the stadium.
4. Bench seating of any description is prohibited.

1.16 – Hardstanding

(A/ B criteria)

1. There must be hardstanding surrounding one length and one width of the field of play, comprising of concrete, paving stones or tarmac. Hardstanding of a temporary nature will not be approved under any circumstances. **(A Criteria)**
2. All mandatory Spectator Areas must be accessed by Hardstanding. **(A Criteria)**
3. Where the stadium is part of a larger sports complex, the football area must be totally enclosed from all other activities, if another activity is taking place at the same time. **(A Criteria)**

1.19 – Sanitary Facilities

(A/ B criteria)

1. Sufficient clean and hygienic sanitary facilities must be distributed evenly throughout all sectors of the stadium for male and females spectators. Toilets and urinals must be equipped with flushers. Sinks and amenities such as toilet paper and soap must be available. **(A Criteria)**

1.20 – First Aid Officer

(A criteria)

1. Clubs must have the services of at least one fully qualified First Aid Officer at each home match.
2. The First Aid Officer must produce a valid certificate confirming at least six hours of training.

1.21 – Facilities for spectators with disabilities

(A / B criteria)

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1. Clubs, in consultation with a local disability group (or Level Playing Field for example) must have undertaken a review of its own procedures with regard to the level of service it provides for spectators with disabilities. *(A criteria)*
2. In addition, persons with disabilities should have dedicated sanitary facilities as well as refreshment and catering facilities nearby. *(A criteria)*
3. One disabled toilet should be available for every 15 wheelchair users. *(A criteria)*

I.22 – Ground Regulations

(A criteria)

1. The club must arrange to have its Ground Regulations fixed in suitable areas of the ground in such a way that the spectators can read them.
2. Ground Regulations should at least provide information on; Admission rights, abandonment and postponement of events, a description of prohibitions and penalties such as entering the field of play, throwing objects, use of foul and abusive language, racist behaviour, restrictions with regard to alcohol, fireworks, flares, banners, seating rules and causes for ejection from the Stadium.