

POLICY FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE COUNCIL'S PLAYING FIELDS AND ALLOCATION OF FOOTBALL PITCHES WHEN DEMAND EXCEEDS SUPPLY

Reviewed: May 2026

Background

The Council has experienced increased demand for its football pitches. Feedback from stakeholders has revealed concerns – incorrectly attributing decision-making authority to the Chair of the Council, who has faced undue criticism.

To address this and ensure clarity, the Football Working Party recommends the adoption of the following guiding principles. These principles will promote transparency, fairness, and accountability, reaffirming that all decisions are made by the Full Council – not by any individual or sub-committee.

Guiding Principles

1. Application and Compliance

Submission of a pitch application constitutes agreement to these principles. Breaches may result in suspended access to Council facilities for a period determined by the Council.

2. Consideration of Compliance History

The Football Working Party may assess whether clubs have complied with expectations in both the current and past seasons (see “Expectations Upon Clubs” below).

3. Equality and Inclusion

The Working Party must evaluate the equality impact of its recommendations, with specific attention to under-represented groups.

4. Consideration of Complaints

Complaints submitted against any team or individual may be taken into account.

5. Team Cohesion

When multiple teams from the same club apply, the Working Party will aim to keep them on the same site where possible.

6. Decision-Making Process

The Football Working Party will apply these principles in forming its recommendations to the Full Council. Pitches were agreed at the Full Council Meeting on 18th May 2026.

7. Annual Review

These principles and expectations will be reviewed annually to ensure continued relevance and effectiveness.

Expectations Upon Clubs

1. Applications must be submitted by the deadline and accompanied by the required deposit. Late applications may be allocated remaining pitches on a match-by-match basis.
 2. A list of signed-on players must be submitted by 10 August 2026 for eligibility for any applicable discounts.
 3. Clubs (including players, officials, promoters, and parents) must engage respectfully and cooperatively with the Council and its representatives. Historical conduct will be considered. See Appendix A for examples of unacceptable behaviour.
 4. Clubs must comply promptly with requests or instructions from Council staff.
 5. All invoices must be paid by the specified due date unless an alternative agreement is in place.
 6. Clubs must avoid any activity that could damage the playing fields.
 7. Fields must be cleared of litter after use.
 8. The Pavilion must be left clean, tidy, and free of equipment after use.
 9. Parking regulations must be respected by club members and attendees.
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Appendix A – Examples of Unacceptable Behaviour

The following are examples—not an exhaustive list—of behaviour that may result in immediate suspension of facility use pending investigation:

- Harassment, bullying, threats, or intimidation
 - Attempts to influence or pressure Council members or staff
 - Disputing or refusing Council decisions (e.g., pitch closures due to weather)
 - Posting abusive comments on social media platforms (e.g., Facebook, Twitter)
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Originally adopted: Full Council Meeting, 4 May 2014