



## **3G Football Turf Pitch**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

(Updated 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024)

#### **Why is the 3G Football Turf Pitch (FTP) size 9v9 and not 11v11?**

We are aware, based on feedback already received, local football clubs would ideally like to have a 11v11 3G FTP. The Football Foundation and Cornwall FA has recently met with key stakeholders to discuss why they would support a funding bid for a 9v9 3G FTP in Torpoint whilst sharing the benefits and sustainable approach such a facility would bring to the local area. The programme of use and business plan supports the development of a 9v9 pitch, taking into account the day to day operational costs and monies that need to be set aside for a Pitch Replacement Fund (often referred to as a sinking fund) to ensure the facility is sustainable in the longer term. *Unfortunately a 11v11 pitch is not financially viable in this area and it would not be supported by the Football Foundation.*

#### **What is the difference between a 3G FTP and a Multi-Use Games Area?**

A 3G Football Turf Pitch is a specially designed surface featuring long-pile synthetic grass which is tested to allow the pitch to host affiliated football on it whilst meeting the safety standards. The facility will only be built to meet rugby standard if there is the demand as this adds additional cost. The surface is long lasting and robust, and as a result it can be used all year round. It is an important community resource that means more people can benefit from the social and health benefits of physical activity. MUGA is an acronym for Multi Use Games Area. There are a wide range of different surface finishes and a variety of different sports and games that can be played. It is often limited to more recreational activities and cannot be tested to allow affiliated football/rugby so it can therefore be limited on its impact for sport/physical development and outcomes.

#### **Is there a timeframe for the official opening of the pitch to the Community?**

The Football Foundation has confirmed the project now has a place in their funding pipeline. The funding application needs to be submitted by the College by 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025 with a funding decision from the Football Foundation then expected no later than 20<sup>th</sup> April 2025. If successful with our application, it is hoped the facility would be open to the Community during Autumn 2025 provided there are minimal delays during the construction process.

### **Who will be managing the 3G FTP facility?**

Facility management details are still to be confirmed but will be work in progress on the lead up to funding application submission.

### **What will the hire prices be for the usage of the pitch?**

Prices to use the facility have still to be confirmed. It is likely they will be similar to other 3G FTP pitches in Cornwall and will have to be signed off by the Football Foundation as part of the application process along with ongoing reviews. The aim is to provide affordable access to the facility whilst allowing the site to generate sufficient income to be sustainable and cover the operational and maintenance costs. The site is also expected to set aside provisions to allow the carpet to be replaced when it gets to the end of its lifecycle (subject to the maintenance regime and usage, this is likely to be around 10-12 years).

### **Will I get to input into the project?**

Yes, various partners in the project will be hosting a number of engagement opportunities for you to help shape the project. This community engagement will form an important part of the application process required by the Football Foundation.

### **Will the pitch be available to the community every day?**

We anticipate the pitch being available for community use during weekday evenings and school holiday periods, and at weekends. Bookings for use of the facility in term time during the day will also be available to local schools. More details on actual times will be available as we progress through the project and planning permission has been obtained, along with the facility management plan being confirmed.

### **Can other sports and activities, other than football, be played on the pitch?**

Yes. This is likely to require pitch markings to be laid out with cones or flat markers and cater for recreational use only. Rubber moulded stud footwear must be worn at all times.

### **What sports can't you play on this facility?**

The main sport you can play on this facility is football; however, many other activities can occur on the pitch for example fitness or running activities. It is hoped that during the community engagement stage further activities will be identified. Furthermore, other activities will also be able to be developed within the current sports hall if football activity is moved from the hall to the new 3G FTP. This is known as a secondary outcomes/impact.

### **Is there mandatory footwear to be worn whilst using the pitch?**

In order to protect the 3G surface, ensure its longevity is maintained and meet the requirements of the guarantee, no flat sole footwear will be permitted on the pitch. Only rubber moulded stud boots may be worn on this type of surface. Information will be distributed before the site opens and signs will be displayed to avoid confusion.

### **As well as Torpoint Community College, will the pitch be available for use by other local schools?**

Yes. Schools in Torpoint and Rame will have regular opportunities to use the facility and provision has been made for this in the usage plan. They will also be part of the community engagement.

### **What time must the floodlights be turned off in the evenings?**

Exact timings have still to be confirmed through the planning process, but we expect floodlights to be switched off by 10pm in line with these types of facilities.

### **What is the Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) strategy?**

A statement on the position of 3G pitches environmental sustainability from the Sports and Play Construction Association (SAPCA) in conjunction with key industry stakeholders (including the Football Foundation) can be found here: <https://sapca.org.uk/guide/position-statement-on-3g-pitches/>. More detailed technical FAQs can be found at the bottom of that webpage.

The Football Foundation grant award would include the following condition to ensure the appropriate end-of-life disposal of the FTP system:

'At the end-of-life all elements of the synthetic turf system (shock pad, stabilising infill, performance infill and carpet) should be disposed of through a recycling operator holding an environmental permit for a waste operation to store and treat artificial turf. All elements of the synthetic turf system should not be disposed of in any other way or repurposed for anything other than its original intended use.'

It should be noted that all elements of the synthetic turf system are recyclable.