

HOCKEY PITCH MAINTENANCE TOP 10 TIPS

A structured maintenance programme should achieve the following benefits:

- Keeps the surface clean, free-draining and safe
- Maintains the performance characteristics for ball roll, traction, shock absorbency etc.
- Maximises the life of the carpet ensuring full return on investment and warranties.
- Ensures an attractive playing environment thereby helping to retain Players & Users

A GOOD ENTRANCE:

Have you got:

- Mats
- Bins
- User Signage – Do's & Don'ts
- Boot scrapers/brushes

ROTATE THE USE:

Ensure the usage of the pitch is rotated across the entirety of the pitch so that the pitch receives even wear.

MAINTAIN THE LEVELS:

Keep high wear areas topped up:

- Penalty Spots
- Short Corners
- Top of D's
- Goal Mouths

CHECK THE FIXINGS:

Inspect the goals, nets, fence and dug-outs.

- Tighten the fixings
- Secure the nets
- Repair or replace any broken or damaged goals, fences & kickboards

TREAT THE WEEDS:

Moss, weeds and grass will grow in the perimeter edge of the carpet:

- Brush
- Spray/Treat
- Remove

HOW BRIGHT ARE THE LIGHTS:

Check the lux levels for the floodlights.

Ensure the lenses are clean and all the bulbs are working.

REDUCE THE SHADE:

Keep surrounding trees and bushes cut back to help reduce:

- Debris
- Shade
- Moss Growth

WHAT'S IN THE SHED:

Check, service and clean the in-house maintenance machinery and equipment.

SEE THE LINES:

- Clear and vibrant
- Inlaid – glued and secure
- Painted – ready for the season (...and will last the season)

REVIEW YOUR MAINTENANCE REGIME:

Is it keeping your pitch safe, clean, free draining and consistent?



INFOSHEET

Maintenance Procedure

This programme should be based around the following pro-active procedures:

DRAG BRUSHING:

Machinery needed: Powered Drive Unit (eg. small tractor) and sturdy Brush and Mat

Frequency of operation: min. once per week all year round

Purpose: To evenly redistribute the infill and agitate carpet fibres

Tip: Ensure the low used, perimeter areas get brushed. This will help prevent moss growth.

LITTER & LEAF REMOVAL:

Machinery needed: Blower, leaf collector, drag mat and brush

Frequency of operation: Ideally daily (particularly in autumn) or minimum weekly. **Purpose:** To ensure the surface is kept clean and safe and to reduce potential contamination. **Tip:** Cut back any overhanging trees/bushes. Locate bins around the facility.

REVIVE SPECIALIST CLEANING:

Machinery needed: Powered Drive Unit with Rotary Brush, Wet/Dry Filter and Vacuum

Frequency of operation: Depends on other maintenance but min. quarterly to monthly

Purpose: To remove the surface debris, and de-compact and clean the infill of dust and contamination.

Tip: The more frequent the Specialist Cleaning visits the better the results are as there is less time between visits for debris/contamination to build up.

MOSS & WEED TREATMENT:

Machinery needed: Knapsack sprayer, spade and brush

Frequency of operation: Once per quarter but will depend on location, surrounds & weather

Purpose: To reduce and restrict the growth of moss and weeds around the pitch.

Tip: Help reduce moss/weed growth by reducing the shade and foliage surrounding the pitch.

REJUVENATION - MAJOR CLEANING AND RESTORATION WORKS (SAND DRESSED/FILLED):

Machinery needed: Specialist compressed air based machinery

Frequency of operation: Typically after 7+ years, and then every 5+ years thereafter.

Purpose: A reactive process designed to remove old and contaminated infill thereby helping to restore the drainage and performance of the surface.

Tip: The better a surface is maintained the less likely this process will be required. However by carrying this out it can help extend the life of the pitch by 5+ years

AQUATRAX - MAJOR CLEANING AND RESTORATION WORKS (WATER BASED):

Machinery needed: Specialist water and vacuum extraction machinery

Frequency of operation: Typically every 1-3 years, but will depend on location, surrounds & weather

Purpose: A deep-cleaning process designed to remove algae and contamination thereby helping to restore the drainage and performance of the surface

Tip: The better a surface is maintained the less likely this process will be required.

REPAIRS:

This type of work is generally reactionary to an issue that might arise with the surface. If reported and actioned quickly often repairs can be made with the existing carpet being stuck back into position. If left too long then it may be necessary to use new carpet to patch over weak and failed areas.