

Design Specification Criteria

Design specifications for each type of facility have been summarised for each facility type. In addition to targeting improvements to existing facilities to ensure that these suggested standards are met, any new facilities should be designed with these standards in mind.

SWIMMING POOLS	
National standards and / or benchmarks	<p>Sport England Swimming Pool design guidance</p> <p>The key design features with regards to swimming pools are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the site should be easily accessible – this includes good signage, key information and disabled access • the site should be attractive and well laid out, providing users with a good first impression • natural light should be combined with artificial lighting in the pool area, however glare, solar gain and heat loss needs to be kept to an acceptable level • access to the pool hall should be from the shallow end and from the changing rooms • changing facilities should be flexible and able to cope with peak times. The environment of the changing facilities is also important eg humidity. <p>Further detailed guidance can be found at http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_guidance.</p> <p>British Swimming</p> <p>Additional guidance is provided by British Swimming. This can be found at www.britishswimming.org.</p>

SPORTS HALLS	
National standards and / or benchmarks	<p>Sport England Sports Hall Design Guidance</p> <p>The key design principles are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adequate car parking provision should be provided in close proximity to the main entrance • the site should be easily accessible • the site entrance should be welcoming, clearly identifiable and sign posted • appropriate support facilities should be provided, such as changing facilities, reception area and disabled facilities • the surface of the hall must be flush and of a consistent colour • adequate storage space for equipment should be provided • changing facilities should give an impression of cleanliness and hygiene • one shower point should be provided for every six changing spaces. <p>Sport England Sports Hall Design and Layout</p> <p>This guidance provides specific information on the various designs and layouts of a sports hall.</p> <p>Sport England Optimum Sports Hall</p> <p>This design guidance is for a four court hall with ancillary accommodation. The key features of a sports hall are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exterior – attractive by day and night • Entrance – prominent, with a generous lobby and automatic doors • Social hub – generous space and volume with views of the hall

APPENDIX F – NGB QUALITY CRITERIA

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sports hall – simple, with beams, acoustics, lighting, heating, ventilation, flooring, storage etc to provide the best environment for multi sporty use• Changing facilities – flexible layout, with high, sloping ceilings, large rooflights, underfloor background heating, warm air supply and extract and fully tiled walls and floors• Fitness and exercise – a high volume space, with good acoustics, air conditioning and large external windows. <p>Further detailed guidance can be found at http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_guidance.</p>
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HEALTH AND FITNESS GYMS	
National standards and / or benchmarks	<p>Sport England Fitness and Exercise Spaces Design Guidance Note</p> <p>The key design considerations outlined in the guidance are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the entrance to the site should be clearly defined, welcoming and attractive • the site should be accessible to all • external factors such as security and environmental issues should be considered • fitness suites should have a bright and open design • changing rooms should consist of: changing areas, toilets, showers, lockers and vanity areas with hair dryers • the fitness gym should generally be separated into individual zones • when determining the size of a studio , NGB requirements need to be considered • the environmental considerations of the fitness gym are particularly important eg ventilation, acoustics <p>Further detailed guidance can be found at http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_guidance.</p>

INDOOR BOWLS	
National standards and / or benchmarks	<p>Sport England Indoor Bowls Design Guidance Note</p> <p>The key design considerations outlined in the guidance are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the site should be easily accessible, with clear signage• the site must be accessible for all users, including people with disabilities• car parking should be provided in relation to local need• ancillary accommodation should be provided, the level of provision is dependent on the size of the site• storage should be provided for equipment• unless formal matches are to be played, shower facilities are not essential. <p>Further detailed guidance can be found at http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_guidance.</p>

GRASS PITCHES	
National standards and / or benchmarks	<p>Sport England Natural Turf for Sport Design Guidance Note</p> <p>This guidance note outlines the key design requirements for natural turf pitches. The key issues for each type of grass pitch are detailed below.</p> <p><i>Football, rugby and hockey pitches</i></p> <p>The layout of pitches should maximise the potential of the site.</p> <p>Artificial drainage is generally essential for providing a sustainable, high quality playing surface.</p> <p>The playing surface should be no steeper than 1:80 – 1:100 along the line of play and 1:40 – 1:50 across the line of play.</p> <p><i>Cricket pitches</i></p> <p>Ideally, the cricket square should be completely level along the line of play. A slight fall of 1:100 is acceptable.</p> <p>Where rainfall levels are low and topsoil is naturally free draining, there should be no need for artificial drainage.</p> <p>If winter games are to be played, the grass cover needs to be hard wearing to maintain the playing surface during wet weather.</p> <p>Further detailed guidance can be found at http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_guidance.</p> <p>The FA</p> <p>Further guidance is provided by the FA. This can be found at www.thefa.com/grassroots.</p> <p>Football Foundation guidance</p> <p>The max slope should not exceed 1:41 in any direction. The slope along the line of play should not exceed 1:90.</p> <p>The Football Conference minimum safety margins are 225mm – 275mm between touch lines, goal lines and the pitch perimeter. However, this should look to be increased where possible.</p>

SYNTHETIC TURF PITCHES	
National standards and / or benchmarks	<p>Sport England a design to the design, specification and construction of Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) and Synthetic Turf Pitches (STPs)</p> <p>The key issues with regards to the design of STPs are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a floodlit STP should be located at least 12m and ideally 30m from other residences • the site should be located in close proximity to a car park and support facilities • the site should be easily accessible for all, including people with disabilities and emergency services • a good drainage system is essential. The STP should have a suitable drainage system that safeguards against surface flooding, does not allow excess water to remain present and protects from the effects of ground or surface water from the surrounding area • safe anchorage of all free standing equipment is essential • division nets should be installed to increase the use of STPs. <p>Further detailed guidance can be found at http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_guidance.</p> <p>The FA</p> <p>Further guidance is provided by the FA. This can be found at www.thefa.com/grassroots.</p>

ATHLETICS TRACKS	
National standards and / or benchmarks	<p>Sport England Athletics Design Guidance Note</p> <p>The guidance outlines the following key considerations, with regards to the design of athletics facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the site should be accessible for all • an athletics track must be: dimensionally accurate, of sound construction, finished with a surface that can allow for shoe spikes and has allowance for wear and tear, durable, slip resistant and impact resistant • floodlighting is essential to maximise the use of the site. <p>Further detailed guidance can be found at http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_guidance.</p> <p>UK Athletics (UKA) Athletics facilities: Planning and delivering 2007 – 2012</p> <p>The specifications for outdoor synthetic tracks include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • minimum of 6 and a maximum of 8 lanes • track and field layout to meet UKA specifications • located adjacent to and existing sports complex or education site • within easy travelling time of education establishments • provision for disabled users and spectators • appropriate floodlighting • access to suitable toilets and changing rooms and where possible social/club rooms and strength training • adequate storage • well maintained central grass area

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• on site athletics club• provision (where possible) of throws' training area away from the track. <p>UK Athletics (UKA) Athletics Facility Guide</p> <p>The key issues with regards to the quality of athletics tracks are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A track should be clean and tidy• the track must meet SAPCA (UK) specifications in terms of: surface flatness, surface thickness, force reduction, modified vertical deformation, friction and tensile strength.
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BOWLING GREENS	
National standards and / or benchmarks	<p>Sport England Natural Turf for Sport Design Guidance Note</p> <p>The key issues with regards to the design of a bowling green are outlined below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it is imperative that a level survey is conducted in preparation of a green. • only in exceptional circumstances is drainage not required. Most sites will require a drainage carpet and an underlying system of pipe drains. Flat and crown bowling greens require a perimeter drain laid beneath the outer ditch channel. • a suitable irrigation system must be installed. At a minimum, one or two water hydrants will be required. • hard wearing paths are required on the green surrounds for spectators and pedestrians. Safe and easy access, particularly for the disabled is required. • top dressing the green is essential to achieving a high quality surface. <p>Further detailed guidance can be found at http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_guidance.</p> <p>Bowls England</p> <p>Guidance on the maintenance of facilities can be found at www.bowlsengland.com.</p>

TENNIS COURTS	
National standards and / or benchmarks	<p>Sport England Natural Turf for Sport Design Guidance Note</p> <p>The key issues with regards to the design of tennis courts are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • courts must be reasonably well drained to facilitate routine maintenance and avoid waterlogging during winter. On naturally well drained courts, artificial drainage is not a necessity. • if grass cover is achieved through turfing, regular redressing is required. • a suitable water supply should be available. As a minimum at least one hydrant point should be provided. <p>Lawn Tennis Association (LTA)</p> <p>Further facility advice and guidance is provided by the LTA. This includes: the maintenance of facilities, key dimensions, court surfaces and floodlighting.</p> <p>Further information can be found at: http://www.lta.org.uk/Clubs/Resources</p>