

Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance

An approach to developing and delivering a playing pitch strategy

Appendix 6a



The England Hockey Board (EH) Offer of Support

This offer of support seeks to help Local Authorities (LAs) develop and deliver a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and ensure a collaborative approach from the start.

The offer is subject to a LA reading the guidance document and then discussing any points of clarification and the key principles of the approach with Sport England prior to engaging EH.

This initial engagement with Sport England and subsequently EH should take place as soon as a LA is thinking of developing a PPS, with appropriate notice and before a brief is drafted and any external support is secured. This being the case EH will seek to provide the following offer of support to LAs during each stage of the work.

The EH offer will be coordinated regionally through 12 Relationship Managers (RM) across the five EH regions.

Please note the need for early engagement. Should a situation arise where a significant amount of strategies are being undertaken at the same time within the same area of the country this may lead to some capacity issues with EH providing elements of its offer.

Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach (Step 1)

- Attend an initial scoping meeting and help to tailor the approach
- Engage with, support and where possible attend steering group meetings
- Provide and discuss the current and potential hockey landscape within the area and identify EH strategic priorities/direction
- Review and provide comments on a draft tailored brief for the work and timescales

Stage B: Gather supply and demand information and views (Steps 2 & 3)

- Check the details of all pitches provided by Active Places Power and LA records (to be supplied by LA)
- Provide EH Facility Audit Data (this also includes identification of junior development centres (JDCs) and junior academy centres (JACs))
- Provide contact list of clubs, leagues, key local stakeholders and hockey development centres
- Provide detail/discuss EH AGP mapping
- Help to improve hockey club survey return rates – logo use on surveys and email endorsement
- Check and challenge the initial pitch quality ratings

For particular areas or where resources allow EH may also be able to:

- Provide current and forecast participation numbers based on interventions and past growth trends
- Help improve hockey club survey return rates through direct communication with clubs and/or reminder emails

Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views (Steps 4, 5 & 6)

- Provide responses to specific queries relating to the assessment work
- Check and challenge the site overviews
- Discuss the suggested nature and extent of likely future demand
- Assist with identifying the key issues from the assessment work
- Review and provide comments on the draft assessment details/report

Stage D: Develop the strategy (Steps 7 & 8)

- Assist with identifying and agreeing the recommendations and a prioritised action plan based on the key findings of the assessment work and EH priorities
- Agree timescales for recommendations and actions where EH can assist their delivery
- Review and provide comments on a draft strategy document

For particular areas or where resources allow the EH may also be able to:

- Support any consultation on the strategy document (i.e. helping the LA to present a draft strategy document to wider stakeholders)

Stage E: Deliver the strategy and maintain its robustness (Steps 9 & 10)

- Engage at agreed periods with the steering group to help review the delivery of the strategy and agree the nature and extent of any update required.

Contacting England Hockey Board

For up to date contact details of the 12 Relationship Managers who will coordinate the offer please refer to the following page of the EH website:

<http://englandhockey.co.uk/regionselect.asp?section=27§ionTitle=EHB+Regional+Offices>

Once the above link is opened clicking on the relevant region will bring up contact details of regional officers including the Relationship Managers and the specific areas they cover.

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The Hockey Landscape

England Hockey governs all hockey in the country from grass roots to the elite end of the sport. The game is played predominately on sand dressed/filled artificial grass pitches (AGPs).

There are approximately 900 sand-filled or sand-based and 50 water-based hockey pitches in England. Most have been installed in the past 10-15 years. Many of the sand-filled or sand-dressed pitches are investments representing partnerships e.g. they involve arrangements made between clubs, schools and local authorities. A considerable number of these pitches are used for multisport activity e.g. hockey, football, rugby and tennis etc.

EH is working with The FA in particular to programme key areas, to ensure that the future provision of AGPs for hockey activities is secure. This includes looking at displacement in areas football AGPs are installed, and increasing the hours available to access existing AGPs in use by hockey to create communities with adequate provision for both sports, and a sustainable future.

EH works to ensure that AGPs suitable for hockey use are provided and/or existing surfaces renewed in areas of identified need including where interventions project that the hockey population will increase significantly in the coming years. Information to help direct this work will be provided through the EH Club and Facilities Strategy during 2013.

England Hockey Single System Pathway

Junior Development Centres (JDC), Junior Academy Centres (JAC) and Junior Regional Performance Centres (JRPC)

A JDC is a local training centre for the U13 to U17 age groups. Each centre is open to any hockey player who has been nominated by their club, school or coach. After playing for a club or school, attending a centre is the next step on the Player Pathway. In order to become a JDC, the site must provide a full size (floodlit) AGP and be able to provide a minimum of 12 hours coaching per week from U13 through to U17s.

A JAC is the next step on the Player Pathway. JACs are located, in the majority of cases, at same locations as JDCs.

JRPC's are double pitch facilities used for training and competition which feed selection opportunities for young people to access the junior national age group squads.

The Single System adds over 7,000 additional hours of AGP use annually over and above club use.

Single System – U18 Player Pathway



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The 10 Step Approach – Hockey Specific Details

The following details should be used specifically for hockey when working through steps 2 and 3 of the approach.

Step 2: Gather information and views on the supply of pitches

1. Sites and Pitches – Differentiate between full and half sized AGPs. Pitch sizes should be measured against England Hockey's minimum dimensions including appropriate run offs (see below link).

Refer to Sport England and the NGBs 'Selecting the Right Artificial Surface for Hockey, Football, Rugby League and Rugby Union' document for a guide as to suitable APG surfaces for Hockey (see below link).

www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/artificial-sports-surfaces/

2. Ancillary Facilities - Details should be provided about the scale and quality of ancillary facilities including changing provision, social facilities and car parking.
3. Pitch Quality – In the majority of cases you may need to carry out a non-technical assessment to understand the quality of an AGP. However, please seek guidance from your EH representative who may be able to provide details they have available to support the quality assessments.

Step 3: Gather information and views on the demand for pitches

Alongside the guidance provided under Step 3 within the main playing pitch strategy guidance document the table below sets out hockey specific information.

Demand type	Details
Organised competitive play	<p>Determine the number of hours (on average) a team uses an AGP each week.</p> <p>Differentiate between senior (16-55yrs) and junior (11-15yrs) teams.</p> <p>Play should be categorised in the following slots:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Saturday▪ Sunday▪ Midweek evening

Demand type	Details
	<p>An AGP cannot accommodate more than four competitive hockey matches on a peak day (normally a Saturday)</p> <p>The hockey season typically operates from September to April.</p>
Organised training and casual play	<p>Identify the extent of other use including weekly sessions for training, junior sessions, friendly matches, Junior Development Centres (JDC) and Junior Academy Centres (JAC).</p> <p>As a guide JDCs use 18 hours per season and JACs use 9 hours a season.</p>
Population projections and future demand	<p>Population projections will be required for the following age and gender categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Senior mens (16-55) ▪ Senior womens (16-55) ▪ Junior boys (11-15) ▪ Junior girls (11-15) <p>The projections by these categories should be used to calculate the Team Generation Rates (TGRs) in Step 5 to help develop the likely future demand.</p>