

3G Pitch– Winter Usage Policy

Frost and Frozen Pitches

A common misconception with artificial sports pitches is that they are ‘all-weather’, so much so that they are often referred to as just the ‘All Weather Pitch’. If maintained correctly, an astroturf pitch should be playable in *most* weathers, but it is a mistake to assume that such surfaces are ‘all-weather’, when heavy snow falls.

During winter, artificial pitches retain large moisture content and, inevitably, this moisture will freeze, causing the surface to become hard and often unsafe to play on. It is not uncommon for the surface to remain frozen, even when surrounding natural grass areas have thawed, due to the low core temperature of the artificial turf and the insulating effect that the infill and carpet creates. Reduced daylight hours during the winter months can also result in shaded areas remaining 'frosted over' all day, impacting, in turn, upon the ability to thoroughly sweep or brush the pitch.

Snow

Snow, although not a frequent or prolonged weather condition, nevertheless creates chaos and disruption to the continued use of artificial pitches. In most cases, it is unlikely that much can be done to remove snow from the playing surface in the short-term, especially without a suitable area to store large piles of snow. If snow thaws and re-freezes, it will be almost impossible to remove the ice without damaging the surface, as it will stick to the carpet.

Attempting to take off large amounts of snow from a synthetic surface can affect infill (rubber crumb) levels in this way and, if left unremedied, infill displacement can weaken the fibres and increase the rate at which the carpet wears, compromising the playing characteristics and foreshortening the life expectancy of the surface.



Lettings weather cancellation procedures

In the instance that we have a frozen pitch or large amounts of snowfall, the 3G pitch will be unavailable to play on until the ice/snow has thawed. Hodge Hill College lettings staff will decide if the pitch is playable first thing in the morning (or previous evening if possible) and let all lettings know ASAP should a booking need to be cancelled.

All cancelled bookings will be credited the booking amount against the next invoice issued.