

KRFC Pitch Usage: Season 2016 - 17

Aims:- to maintain all pitches in the best possible condition, through rotational ~~rotational~~ **managed** usage. As the Main Pitch and the Training Pitch are subject to high demand, these have to be managed particularly carefully.

Main Pitch

- The **Main Pitch** to be used for one Senior match/week (Saturday), excluding Cup games and Ladies fixtures (Sundays).
Colts, 2s & 3s to have shared usage (to be decided by Fixture Secretary) according to past usage.
Ladies team to play on Main Pitch on Sundays, whenever conditions allow.
- **One M&J** team(s) to play at least a home match on **Main Pitch** from Oct-Nov onwards, subject to ground conditions (to be allocated by M&J Fixture Secretary).
- The **Main Pitch** will be available for touch tournaments, U23 matches and training camps, etc, subject to ground conditions. However, these events must be agreed with **XXXX** before further arrangements are made and early booking is to be recommended.

Training Pitch

- During midweek, the **Training Pitch** to be used by the following approved users;

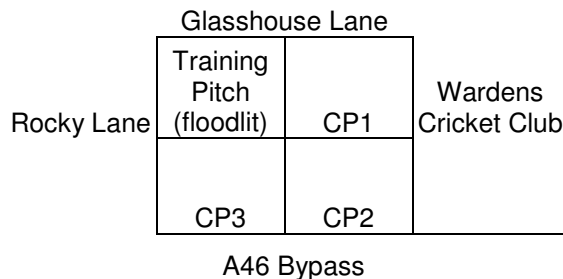
	<u>M</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>S</u>
TP	Ladies		Touch + Ladies				M&J

- To remain within Sport England guidelines, on Sundays the Training Pitch should be used by U7 - U15 only (not U16-17).

Cowpatch – M&J usage

- In order to protect the 2 **match pitches** (CP1 & CP2) these should be the last ones to be used for training. When used by the M&Js, they should be allocated to the smallest age groups who will cause least compaction.

Cancellation of matches (except 1s) due to ground conditions will be decided by **joint decision** between **Rich Gibson, Rod Jones or Peter Blakeman** and the relevant team captain/coach. When bad weather/over-usage affects the pitches **RG, RJ or PB** will decide which pitch will be used for matches/training. **Use for representative/cup games will be decided by Chairman of Grounds and Chairman/Secretary.**



This policy was agreed by KRFC Management Committee on **XXXXXX**. On behalf of the KRFC Management Committee, decisions on pitch usage to be decided by Chairman of Grounds **or designate** and appeals to the KRFC Chairman.

Kenilworth Rugby Club – Pitch use advice for Coaches

Introduction

This advice is to update you on the current situation with all of the Kenilworth Rugby Club pitches and to seek your support and commitment as Coaches to share in the responsibility to protect our playing and training surfaces to ensure they remain available to all players for as long as is possible.

Current Situation

During the close season, the usual end of season maintenance has taken place on the main pitch with sand dressing, vertidrainage and re-seeding in addition to weekly mowing.

Down at the Cow Patch the three pitches other than the Training pitch have undergone basic maintenance and upkeep including mowing, fertilising and verti-drainage.

In relation to the Training pitch most of you will be aware that even more work has been carried out in the close season, funded by Sport England and the RFU. The pitch has undergone scarification (removal of thatch and undesirable grasses etc), slit drains installed, gravel back fill, fertilisation, overseeding and sand topdressing. There is still more work to be done to further back fill the slit drains once settled, herbicide and more sanddressings. It is not anticipated that the training pitch will be available (as anticipated) until November.

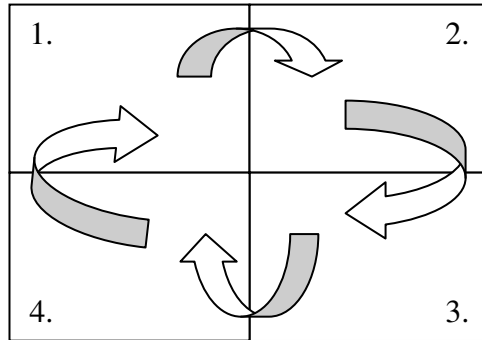
Pitch use

It is so very important that Coaches make sure they do not overwork one particular area of the pitch they are training on. Our recent additional funding from Sport England and our view that the previous Training pitch drainage project was not delivered properly (subject of a complaint from us) was so very nearly compromised because of the fact that when a site meeting took place in November 2014 there was evidence of a completely overworked, muddied area on the pitch – which indicated considerable overuse, a lack of pitch care awareness and mis-management of the recently reworked pitch. Such overuse causes compaction thus preventing surface water easily draining away and is very costly to remedy. So we need to make sure our pitches are properly looked after and cared for by all.

Of our regularly used pitches, common areas of wear and tear can be identified at the point where the 22 metre line meets the touch. This point on the pitch is unfortunately regularly used by coaches and sides when running through their training or pre match drills often starting with 'a line out on the 22'. This issue is further compounded when coaches seem to favour one side of the pitch. Can I ask you please to consider this and simply vary the 're-start point' of your exercises or drills. Also when you decide it is time to 'beast your players' to improve their fitness, please regularly move around the field of play to avoid players stopping and starting in the same place. In short please rotate your use of the training field.

Rotational usage

The majority of damage (compaction) caused to pitches is unseen. Compaction is costly to remedy but can be easily avoided through rotational usage when training.



All areas, including the dead ball area should be used

Please avoid using the same area for warm-up, drills, exercises, touch or mini-games week after week.

Use in wet weather

If ground conditions are very wet, particularly as our grounds are on clay soils, a lot of long-term damage can be caused very easily and quickly, so it’s up to the coach or manager of the players to take responsibility and either cancel it or relocate to an area (consider ‘off pitch’ space) that will not suffer unnecessary damage to the surface or compromise future use. If you continue to train and very quickly you find players are getting very wet and muddy and the surface is quickly becoming muddy – training should stop – it is likely that it should not in fact have started....

Training pitch

In relation to Training pitch use for the forthcoming season it is a Sport England requirement that when it becomes available in November, we will need to limit its weekly use to allow its full recovery. This will be limited to 3.5 hours use per week if adults are to train on it or 4.5 hours if juniors train on it. (under 15’s and below) This limitation has been imposed upon us by the main funder and the Consultant project manager and lasts through to the end of the season. Please see the attached proposed pitch allocation schedule for further details as to who are allocated where to train and when.

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
MP		Senior Men / Colts		Senior Men / Colts		Home Fixtures	M&J (am) Senior Women (pm)
TP	Senior Women *		Touch / Senior Women *				M&J*

*Until the Training pitch becomes available in November the Women and Touch to use the Main pitch when light is required.

If either of the pitches become unfit or needs resting, pitch use guidance will be issued at that time.

Please note that 8 Portable Floodlights are to be purchased for use on areas other than the Main or Training pitch. Details will follow once the lights have been procured and a protocol for use put in place. These lights will allow most elements of training and ball work to take place with the exception of high ball work (receiving kick offs for example)

Pitch fitness

If as a consequence of poor weather conditions it is considered beforehand that the pitches may not be fit to either train on or play please seek a decision from the Chair of Grounds Rod Jones or Rich Gibson who all being well between them can visit the grounds and make a judgement as to fitness for use. They will either offer advice as to those pitches which can be played upon or take the decision to postpone.

Contacts:

Rod Jones - Chairman of Grounds – Mob 07879 317 910 - Email rj@birches2006.wanadoo.co.uk

Rich Gibson – Mini & Juniors - Mob 07720 262574 – Email rich@fitness-worx.com

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