

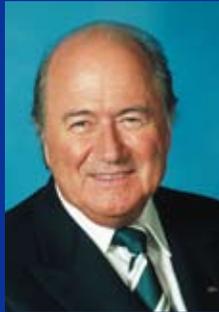
FIFA Quality Concept for Football Turf



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“As the game’s worldwide governing body, we have a responsibility to support any move to improve football equipment.”

Joseph S. Blatter (FIFA President)

FIFA, world football’s governing body, has been concerned with ensuring the quality of football turf since 2001. The FIFA Quality Concept, a guarantee of premium quality and consistency, is now a respected international industry standard. With its commitment to first-rate artificial surfaces, FIFA is responding to the growing demand for playing football on football turf – chiefly in regions where the climate makes it impossible to organise football matches on good natural turf all year round.

The FIFA certification and licensing programme, which was launched in February 2001, means that purchasers of football turf can rely on the FIFA RECOMMENDED endorsement when making their decisions. This endorsement is a mark of outstanding quality, optimum playing comfort and regular checks by FIFA.

Artificial turf has been around for decades – but only recently, since manufacturers first developed surfaces tailored specifically to the needs of football, has it been a truly viable surface for football matches. The concept behind most present-day systems is based on a surface with long, grass-like fibres filled with sand and rubber particles

Many different products exist on the market.

The following example shows how a football turf system may be built up.

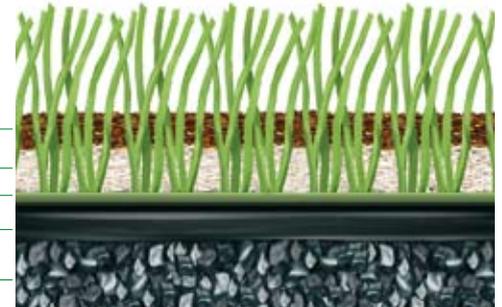
Rubber particle infill

River sand infill

Artificial turf

Asphalt layer

Aggregate (sub-base)



Football turf enables millions of footballers around the world to indulge in their favourite sport all year round, and, more importantly, to do so in the best possible conditions. No more unplayable pitches. No more abandoned matches.

FIFA now feels it is appropriate to use “football turf” as the designation for artificial surfaces installed as part of the FIFA Quality Concept. The main reasons for this are that this designation underlines the high quality of the pitches that are certified as part of the programme and the playing characteristics of “football turf” mirror the quality of natural grass pitches that is required to play the game at a very high level.

Summary of the benefits of football turf



Unaffected by weather and resistant to harsh climatic conditions (rain, snow, drought, frost etc.).



Ideal for covered stadia or stadia where steep stands cast a great deal of shade (artificial turf does not need sunlight).



Easy maintenance and low maintenance costs.



Fewer playing fields required, because it has greater longevity.



A variety of potential uses: training, matches and cultural events can be held on the same turf.

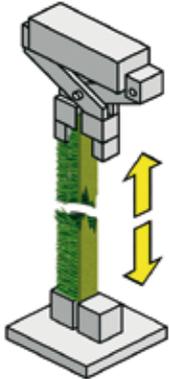


Improved playing conditions, which remain constant all year round.

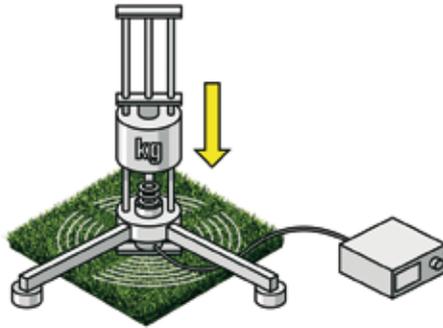


The FIFA Quality Concept

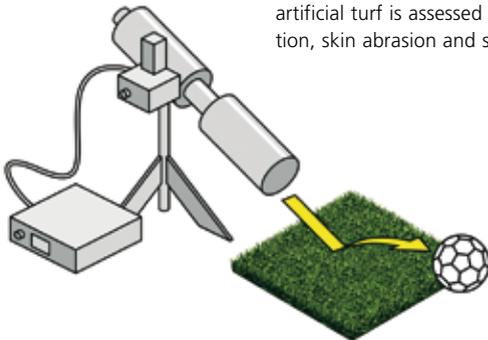
The FIFA Quality Concept for Football Turf was developed in order to standardise the quality of artificial surfaces around the world, to ensure the safety of footballers and to promote continual, innovative development by artificial turf manufacturers.



The turf undergoes various laboratory tests, including the tensile strength of the joints. Other tests check the composition, durability and climatic resistance of the artificial turf.



This test measures the turf's shock absorbency and vertical deformation. The interaction between player and artificial turf is assessed by analysing slip resistance, traction, skin abrasion and skin friction.



Angled ball behaviour. One of several tests of ball behaviour, which measures the speed and bounce of the ball on the surface.

When is artificial turf awarded the FIFA RECOMMENDED endorsement?

Before football turf can be awarded the FIFA RECOMMENDED hallmark, it must undergo a sophisticated test procedure. The benchmark is perfectly manicured natural turf. A sample of the turf is tested in a laboratory and the installed turf undergoes field trials on numerous characteristics.

In the laboratory, the turf product is identified and various features are tested such as robustness, climatic resistance and the interaction between ball, player and surface.

As well as an assessment of ball behaviour and the interaction between player and artificial turf, the field test also applies rigorous standards to the sub-base and installation, which have a crucial impact on pitch quality.

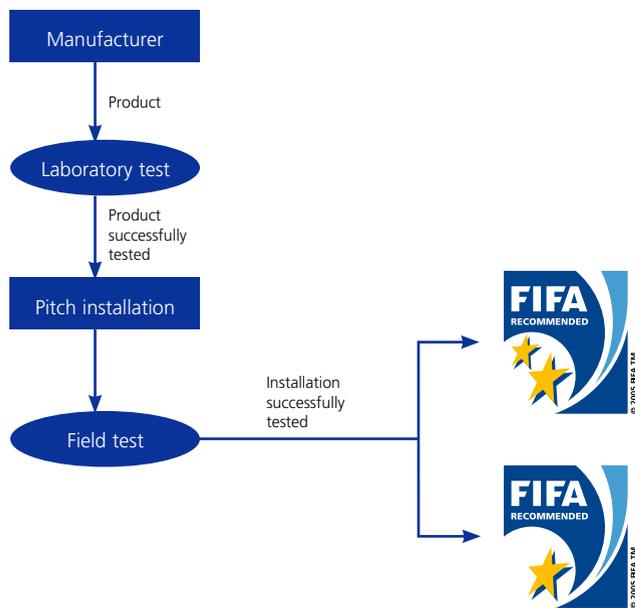
The FIFA RECOMMENDED endorsement is only awarded to fully installed turf that has passed all the laboratory and field tests.

The FIFA RECOMMENDED certificate is a guarantee that the football turf is of the very highest international quality. Nowadays, almost all the major manufacturers are FIFA licensees and the number of turfs that pass the test is rapidly increasing.

FIFA RECOMMENDED quality levels

Based on player surveys, medical research and test results, as well as on information from the industry, the existing standard (FIFA RECOMMENDED 1 STAR) was supplemented with a second standard (FIFA RECOMMENDED 2 STAR) in the summer of 2004.

The development of this second standard aims to satisfy the most rigorous demands in professional football and further improve the playing conditions and safety of football turf pitches.



The benefits to you of a FIFA RECOMMENDED field

With a FIFA RECOMMENDED football turf pitch, everybody benefits and nobody loses: manufacturers benefit from the reliability and credibility afforded by the FIFA badge of quality, while players and managers reap the benefits of the outstanding playing conditions of a FIFA RECOMMENDED artificial turf.

Club officials and football associations have the assurance that FIFA RECOMMENDED football turf pitches have been tested to the stringent FIFA criteria and so meet the highest quality standards.

Football turf pitches that satisfy the FIFA quality standards combine the benefits of natural turf with optimum playing comfort and maximum safety for players. What is more, maintenance costs are low and football turf has greater longevity.

- Same surface interaction as a good turf pitch: the FIFA test criteria are based on the readings for natural turf
- Quality guarantee for a FIFA RECOMMENDED football turf pitch (FIFA checks the surface)
- Reliability thanks to FIFA certificate and recognised test institutes
- The FIFA RECOMMENDED endorsement is recognised and accepted by footballers around the world
- The FIFA-certified pitch guarantees turf with a long playing life and thus increases the return on investment
- Under the Laws of the Game, FIFA RECOMMENDED football turf pitches qualify as venues for international football matches
- The FIFA certificate and registration at FIFA.com ensure that a FIFA RECOMMENDED football turf pitch is easily and clearly identifiable
- Simplifies the decision-making process for purchasers: the FIFA RECOMMENDED endorsements are a guarantee of quality

FIFA U-17 World Cup Finland 2003

The first FIFA tournament to be played on football turf was the FIFA U-17 World Cup in Finland. Ten matches including the final, were played on football turf. The success of this tournament with matches on football turf paved the way for other FIFA competitions to be played on football turf.

FIFA U-17 World Cup Peru 2005

All 32 matches at the five venues (Chiclayo, Iquitos, Lima, Piura and Trujillo) were played on FIFA RECOMMENDED fields during the FIFA U-17 World Cup in Peru. After the matches in Peru, the feedback from players, team coaches and medical studies was very positive. The F-Marc team (FIFA Medical Assessment and Research Centre) concluded that there was no significant difference in the number and type of injuries which were reported compared to previous U-17 tournaments. The same conclusions had already been made following the tournament in Finland. FIFA continually tests and surveys players, managers and medical staff, whose feedback plays a key role in ensuring the development of football turf moves forward naturally. Football turf has created a lasting legacy in the development of football in Peru. The country suffers from dramatic climate changes in certain areas, with the seasons moving from hot and humid to heavy rainfall. These factors all make it incredibly difficult to sustain an optimal playing surface with a natural grass surface. This is where football turf comes into its own, as climatic changes do not affect the playing characteristics.

FIFA U-20 World Cup Canada 2007

The FIFA U-20 World Cup was another significant breakthrough for football turf. 29 of the 52 matches were played on the FIFA RECOMMENDED 2 STAR football turf field. Three of the 6 venues installed football turf. The venues were Ottawa, Toronto and Montreal. The Montreal venue was all the more significant as this was an indoor arena. The Toronto stadium hosted the final.

Argentina were the eventual winners of the FIFA U-20 World Cup in Canada 2007, but the other winners were the Canadian people, as football turf will enable more opportunities for more people to play the beautiful game more often.

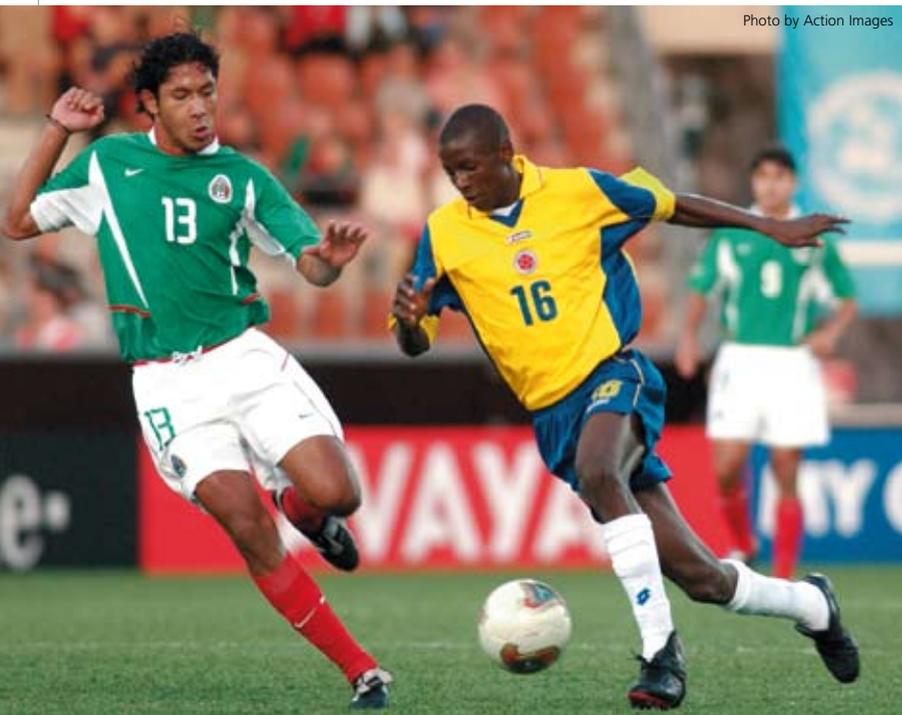


Officially and internationally recognised

In July 2004, the International Football Association Board decided to include football turf in the Laws of the Game. Now, matches between national teams whose associations are FIFA members or international matches between club teams can be officially staged on football turf that bears the FIFA RECOMMENDED endorsement.

The FIFA RECOMMENDED 2 STAR standard will be the relevant quality standard for the use of football turf in UEFA's top competitions as of the 2005-2006 season, including the preliminary competition for the European Football Championship, the UEFA Champions League and the UEFA Cup.

Photo by Action Images



| Competitions | FIFA RECOMMENDED | Authorisation |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| FIFA final round competitions | 2 STAR | FIFA Competition Regulations |
| FIFA preliminary competitions | 1 STAR / 2 STAR | FIFA Competition Regulations |
| UEFA's top competitions | 2 STAR | UEFA Competition Regulations |
| Other UEFA competitions | 1 STAR / 2 STAR | UEFA Competition Regulations |

"The inclusion of football turf in the *Laws of the Game* marked another milestone in the history of football. Millions of footballers around the world will be able to benefit from this decision. They can play their favourite sport on a more regular basis, in the best possible conditions – regardless of weather conditions, which often made it impossible to play football on a natural surface."

Joseph S. Blatter (FIFA President)

Already, more than 100 football turf pitches have been certified in line with the FIFA Quality Concept criteria.

Many professional clubs, such as Bayern Munich and Cologne, have installed the FIFA RECOMMENDED football turf pitches at their training grounds. The French national training centre also has a FIFA RECOMMENDED field.

FC Toronto in Canada and Red Bull Salzburg in Austria both play home matches in their respective countries' top leagues on FIFA RECOMMENDED 2 STAR fields.

FIFA RECOMMENDED fields are in use around the world. Fields have been installed in Lome, Togo ①, Jinju, Korea ②, Toronto, Canada ③, Moscow, Russia ④, Tromso, Norway ⑤, and Montrose, Scotland ⑥.





For further information in various languages, please contact FIFA Quality Concept at the address below.

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100 YEARS FIFA 1904 – 2004

Fédération Internationale de Football Association

FIFA-Strasse 20 P.O. Box 8044 Zurich Switzerland

E-mail: football.turf@fifa.org www.FIFA.com/Footballturf