



## **GROUND GRADING CRITERIA FOR ENTRY INTO: THE DORSET PREMIER FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

The information contained in this Document is intended to make Clubs aware of the Entry & Grading requirements for membership of the Dorset Premier Football League.

### **ENTRY CRITERIA**

- 1 Any Club having previously been a member of the Dorset Premier Football League will be re-graded before being considered for re-acceptance into membership, except those Clubs relegated from Step 6 of the National League System who have already attained the "G" Grading.
- 2 Applications by Clubs must be accompanied by the League Entry Fee of **£50.00** which shall be returned in the event of non-election.  
  
New Clubs entering the Competition must also pay a **£50.00** deposit, which will be refunded if they leave the Dorset Premier Football League within the Competition Rules.
- 3 A non-returnable Grading Fee of **£25.00** will be charged to all new Clubs seeking membership of the Dorset Premier Football League, and an appropriate fee to cover expenses will be charged to existing member Clubs requesting an inspection for upgrading purposes.
- 4 Clubs wishing to be considered for promotion from the Dorset Football League and/or the Bournemouth Hayward Football League must make application in writing to the Dorset Premier Football League Secretary on or before; the **31<sup>st</sup> March in any year**, and at the same time give notice of their intension in writing to the General Secretary of the League currently being played in.
- 5 Clubs must provide a copy of their last Committee meeting minutes and an up to date detailed Financial statement to include income & expenditure with their application.
- 6 Where a Club does not own the freehold of their ground then evidence of at least 3 years security of tenure must be provided at time of application.
- 7 On receiving an official application, with the applicable documentation and fees, the League Secretary will arrange for a Ground Grading Inspection to be carried out.

#### **PLEASE NOTE**

**ALL** items appertaining to the League's Ground Grading Criteria, must be in place **#** at the time of the scheduled inspection.

**#** Please contact the Leagues General Secretary for details.

- 8 All new applying Clubs Secretary's must have full access to e-mail and Internet services and will be required to READ & Fully understand the Rules as laid out in the Leagues Handbook for the League Competition and the League Cup Competition
- 9 The Dorset Premier League is a **FA CHARTER STANDARD LEAGUE** – *awarded in 2011* - **ALL** clubs wishing to gain entry to the Dorset Premier League, unless they already hold a Charter Standard Award, will be given a maximum of 1 Year to attain the minimum Charter Standard.

## **GRADING CRITERIA**

### **1 GROUND**

#### **1.1 Security of Tenure –**

Where a Club does not own the freehold of their ground then evidence of at least 3 years security of tenure must be provided.

#### **1.2 Ground Share –**

Ground sharing would be at the discretion of each League within the National League System, taking into account local circumstances. Where ground sharing is permitted the Club must have sole control over and use of facilities on match days.

Ground sharing must not be allowed for a Club to gain promotion.

#### **1.3 Capacity –**

There is no stated ground capacity.

#### **1.4 Boundary of Ground –**

There is no requirement for a ground to be enclosed in any way.

#### **1.5 Clubhouse –**

A clubhouse facility, whilst being desirable, is not compulsory.

If a clubhouse facility exists either on or adjacent to the ground, this should be open on match days to provide refreshments to spectators.

#### **1.6 Car Parking –**

There should be adequate car parking facilities on or adjacent to the ground.

#### **1.7 Pitch Perimeter Barrier**

There must be a pitch perimeter barrier, which shall be of solid construction (i.e. steel, concrete or wood stanchions, with steel cross tubes). Ideally the height should not exceed 1.1 metres.

The barrier, if other than solid wall type of construction may be infilled. Advertising boards may be acceptable as a means of infill.

There should be a minimum of 1.83 metres, ideally 2.00 metres, between the touchline, goal line and the pitch perimeter barrier.

#### **1.8 Pitch Standards**

The playing surface will be grass, unless otherwise authorised by the respective League Rules and must be of an acceptable standard. It must be free from depressions and excessive undulations.

The maximum slope allowable shall not exceed an even gradient of vertical to horizontal 1:41 in any direction.

### **1.9 Playing Area**

The playing area is to be in accordance with the requirements of the Laws of the Game. Law 1 states that the length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.

Length - Minimum 98m (107 yds) Maximum 120m (130 yds)

Width - Minimum 64m (50 yds) Maximum 90m (100 yds)

It should be noted that at Grade H the playing area must be a minimum of 100 metres x 64 metres.

Goal posts and goal net supports should be of professional manufacture and conform to the current safety requirements and to the requirements of the Laws of the Game.

Reference should be made to the Goalpost Safety Information booklet published by The Football Association.

### **1.10 Technical Area**

Trainers' boxes must be provided and clearly marked 'HOME' and 'AWAY'. These shall be of solid construction, and seat at least 5 persons.

Portable trainers' boxes are permitted and must be securely fixed when in use.

A Technical Area shall be marked out in accordance with the guidance contained in the 'Laws of the Game' booklet.

### **1.11 Secure Walkway –**

A secure walkway is not a requirement.

### **1.12 Floodlighting –**

Floodlighting is not compulsory at this Grade.

However, where it is provided it must be to an average lux reading of 120. No single reading can be less than one quarter of the highest reading to ensure an even spread of light.

Reading shall be on a grid of 88 markings (8 across, 11 down) evenly spaced with the outside readings falling on the pitch boundary line. The average of all the readings is taken to be the average illumination level in lux of the floodlighting installation.

The lux values must be tested every two years in accordance with current guidelines by an approved independent contractor.

When new or improved installations are being planned, an average lux reading of 180 should be provided.

### **1.13 Public Address System –**

A public-address system is not compulsory.

### **1.14 Entrances –**

There is no requirement for fixed entry points.

However, where a turnstile is installed, it must be fully operational and be of the controlled revolving type.

### **1.15 Exits –**

Where fixed exit points are provided, there must be sufficient to ensure the safe evacuation of the ground if necessary.

All exits must be clearly signposted.

### **1.16 Adjoining Pitches –**

No other matches shall be played on adjoining pitches whilst League or Cup matches are in progress.

### **17 Emergency Access**

Access for emergency services should be provided.

## **2 SPECTATOR FACILITIES**

### **1 Seated Accommodation**

Seated accommodation is not a requirement. –

### **2 Covered Standing Accommodation #**

Covered standing accommodation is Desirable but not mandatory must be provided for a minimum of 50 people. This must be of a solid construction.

Hard standing is not compulsory.

However, where it is provided it must be a minimum width of 0.9 metres, measured from the spectator side of the pitch perimeter barrier where provided.

### **3 Toilets**

Toilet facilities for spectators must be provided on ground.

### **4 Refreshment Facilities**

Refreshment facilities for spectators must be available on match days and may be of a temporary or mobile type.

## **2 DRESSING ROOM FACILITIES**

### **1 Players**

Separate dressing rooms must be provided for both teams. Existing dressing room dimensions will be in order, provided they are of a minimum of 12 square metres, excluding shower and toilet areas. However, Clubs wishing to progress should be aware of the need to increase to a minimum of 18 square metres. Where Clubs are planning to build new changing rooms, these must be planned to be a minimum size of 18 square metres, excluding shower and toilet areas.

Each dressing room should have the following:

A shower area comprising of at least 4 working showerheads – If not located in the dressing room then they must be located adjacent to it;

Hot and cold running water.

Adequate Toilet facilities exclusively for the use of the players – If not located in the dressing room then they must be located adjacent to it and they must not be accessible to the General Public

Shared Shower facilities are not acceptable

To be considered for promotion to Step 6, clubs must have en-suite shower and toilet facilities with a minimum of 4 showerheads.

## **2 Match Officials**

Separate dressing rooms must be provided for match officials, the minimum size of which shall be 4 square metres excluding shower and toilet areas.

Each match official's dressing room should have the following:

At least 1 working showerhead.

Hot and cold running water.

Adequate toilet facilities, exclusively for the use of match officials, which must be separate from those provided for the players, these do not necessarily need to be situated in the dressing room but must not be accessible to the public.

Provision should be made for changing accommodation for both male and female match officials.

When new changing rooms are being planned or existing changing rooms refurbished an area of 6 square metres and facilities for mixed gender match officials should be provided.

To be considered for promotion to Step 6, clubs must have en-suite shower and toilet facilities for the match officials

**All dressing room areas to be maintained to a high level of cleanliness and secure on match days**

## **3 MEDICAL**

There must be a suitable qualified person (minimum FA Save a Life) in attendance.

All Clubs must provide first aid equipment at their ground.