Addendum to Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy 2023

Outdoor sports facilities standards

Newark Amended Core Strategy (2019) and Allocations and Development Management DPD do not set locally-specific standards for outdoor sports facilities. Consequently, Part 2 of the decision-making Policy HC3 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2026) specifies the standards that should be applied (in footnote 49).

National Planning Policy Framework (August 2026)

National decision-making policies HC3: Community facilities and public service infrastructure serving new development

1. Proposals for housing, employment or other development which would give rise to significant numbers of additional people living in, working in or visiting an area should:

a. Be informed by an understanding of the need for any associated improvements to community facilities and public service infrastructure, whether on or off-site; and

b. Provide for new or improved community facilities and public service infrastructure which are necessary for the development to be acceptable in planning terms, whether by direct provision or a contribution to off-site improvements (which may be through Community Infrastructure Levy payments, where applicable).

2. Where the development plan does not set locally-specific standards for recreational land and facilities, all development proposals should use relevant national standards and best practice (see footnote 49 of the NPPF)[1] to identify improvements in the quantity and quality of provision which should be provided or contributed towards, as appropriate to the nature of the development and taking into account existing levels of provision in the area.

3. Planning conditions and obligations should be used to secure the timely delivery of community facilities and public service infrastructure required to serve new development, so that these facilities are available for use when the development (or an agreed proportion of the development) is first occupied or comes into use.

[1] Footnote 49 of the NPPF specifies the standards that should be used to determine the amount of open space necessary to make development proposals acceptable:

Footnote 49. These include the suite of Green Infrastructure Standards for England published by Natural England (https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/GreenInfrastructure/GIStandards.aspx), the standards for open space, outdoor sport and play recommended by Fields in Trust (https://fieldsintrust.org/insights/standards) and published Sport England Guidance (including Assessing Needs and Playing Pitch Strategy guidance | Sport England).