

SPORT ENGLAND'S INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS FOR PLANING APPLICATIONS

Set out below is the type of information which helps Sport England to assess planning applications. The information is required to assess whether or not the proposal meets Sport England's exception to policy (see attached). The exceptions are based on those listed in PPG17 and are summarised below:

Summary of Policy Exceptions

The aim of Sport England's policy is to ensure that there is an adequate supply of quality pitches to satisfy the current and estimated future demands of pitch sports.

The policy identifies five exceptions to our normal position of opposing development, which would result in the loss of playing fields. These may be summarised as follows:

1. A documented assessment of current and future needs has demonstrated that there is an excess of playing fields in the catchment.
2. The proposed development is ancillary to the main use of a site for playing fields.
3. The development affects only land incapable of forming part of a playing field.
4. The playing fields to be lost would be replaced by a playing field of equivalent or better quality.
5. The proposed development is for a sports facility, the benefit of which would outweigh the harm caused by the loss of a playing field

Information Requirements for Planning Applications

1. Summer and winter layouts of the existing pitches;
2. Total area of existing playing field;
3. Total area of playing field lost;
4. Details of condition of existing playing fields;
5. Internal layout of sports facilities including changing facilities;
6. Provision of storage areas accessible for outside users for storage of equipment;
7. Secured Community Use Agreement;
8. Anticipated levels of use of outside facilities- linked to requirement of the capacity of the pitches;
9. Appropriately designed changing accommodation to serve community use element;
10. Organisation and layout of pitches on the site relative to buildings should be properly considered to achieve best use;
11. Sports development proposals, especially on secondary schools sites, this links in with the capacity of the pitches and appropriately designed changing accommodation;

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12. Appropriate standards to ensure adequate capacity and quality of pitches to serve their purpose.

Note: The BB98 requirements and Sport England requirements are not the same. BB98 requires sufficient sports provision to meet the needs of the school whereas Sport England looks at the needs of the wider community hence the need for a Community use Agreement.

13. Model maintenance schedule, and in some cases details of management arrangements.
14. Phasing of new building and replacement/upgrading of playing fields and details of upgrading of playing fields.

Note:

Sport England strongly advise all applicants and Local Authorities to enter into pre-application discussions to ensure all issues are identified and resolved prior to applications being submitted.