

3G Maintenance 'best practice' Workshop



Welcome to McDiarmid Park

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McDiarmid Park, Perth



Reasons for today's Workshop...



- **Opportunity** - to come together as a peer group to discuss a vitally important area for 3G operators
- **Cost and availability of other courses** – lack of opportunities in Scotland and prices that rule many out of the market!
- **Offer improved support** - from the **Scottish FA** as governing body, **sportslabs** as Scotland's only FIFA accredited test house and **Replay** as specialist maintenance contractor – a vital component in any 3G maintenance regime.

Top 5 Targets for today...



- To provide an opportunity to come together and share **YOUR EXPERIENCE AS WELL AS** learning from industry leaders.
- To further appreciate the critical importance of a robust, ‘mirrored to use’ maintenance regime...**AND THEN APPLY THAT** back home.
- To **LEARN** about latest industry developments and innovations.
- To take away **AND APPLY** at least one ‘nugget’ of best practice.

Most importantly, PLEASE ...

- **Drive out the car park knowing more than when you drove in!**

A little bit of context...



3G in the Scottish Professional Football League

In season 2015/16, 12 of the 42 SPFL clubs (29%) are playing on 3G

There is a '3G club' at every level of the SPFL for the first time...

Premiership – 2 – Hamilton Accies, Kilmarnock.

Championship – 3 - Alloa Athletic, Falkirk, Queen of the South.

League 1 – 3 - Airdrieonians, Forfar Athletic, Stenhousemuir.

League 2 – 4 - Annan Athletic, Clyde, East Stirlingshire, Montrose.

All 12 of these clubs operate significant community programmes beyond 'first team' activity so have to deal with the impact this has on the surface.

Happily, that's meant an end to signs like these...



And very recently...



...in local authority world



However the challenge now is....



**THE
X
FACTOR**
MAINTENANCE

Maintenance REALLY is the X Factor...



The quality of any pitch maintenance regime directly impacts...

- **Surface Performance** - not just the ability to meet test parameters but perhaps the acid test...how it's perceived by players!
- **Surface lifespan** - and the impact that has on operator finances.
- **Player Safety** - that's a whole other debate – maybe a good one for the next Workshop.
- **Replacement funding** - at circa £25k per annum, maximising pitch lifespan has a significant financial impact.
- **Testing & Certification** - the ability to meet FIFA1, FIFA2, WR22 as required, the associated costs and benefits

The Pro v Community Challenge...



- SPFL Rule H4.1 – “FIFA recommended 2 Star standard”.
- FIFA 2 Star = ideally >20 hours of use per week.
- Pro + Community can reach 40 hours per week +...EASILY!

Key issues arising...

- Manufacturers warranties become compromised.
- Reduced lifespan = early replacement = impact on replacement fund
- Performance (of the pitch, not the team)...but all joking apart...
- Increased concern around player safety (pro or non pro).

The Pro v Community Challenge...



The classic 'Catch 22'...

**How can we maintain FIFA-compliant
(where required!) 3G surfaces that support the
high levels of community use that
ultimately make the pitch sustainable?**

The Pro v Community Challenge...



- FIFA 2 Star can be required if it's a pitch supporting a level of the game that requires it – Club Academy Scotland
- However, in operational hours terms, the vast majority of use is 'community' - as much as 95% v 5% in some cases.
- How can we best address this conundrum?...
a pitch that is used like a FIFA 1 for 95% of it's operational life
but is required to maintain FIFA 2 for 5% or 2 hours a fortnight!

The last thing we need for the development of the game is signs like these re-appearing at 3G facilities...



Surely it is better to deal with the consequences of heavy use than to limit use...



However this has a price...



...that all operators need to consider and be comfortable with over the longer term...

- Investment in continuous training/education for grounds-staff.
- Investment in quality pitch maintenance equipment & contracts.
- Investment in the pitch replacement fund - industry intelligence and real evidence says that 'heavy use' 3G pitches are more likely to need replaced around 8 years - not the often quoted 10.
- and an acknowledgement that **MAINTENANCE IS KEY!**

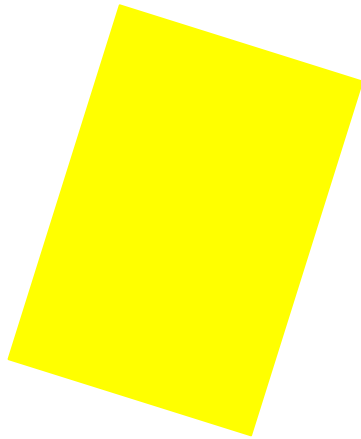


Maintenance

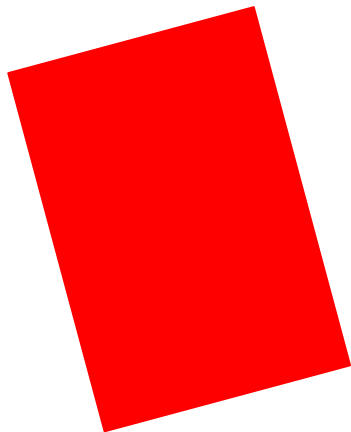


Mastermind

What is the upper limit for ball roll in the FIFA 2 Star field **re-test** protocol?



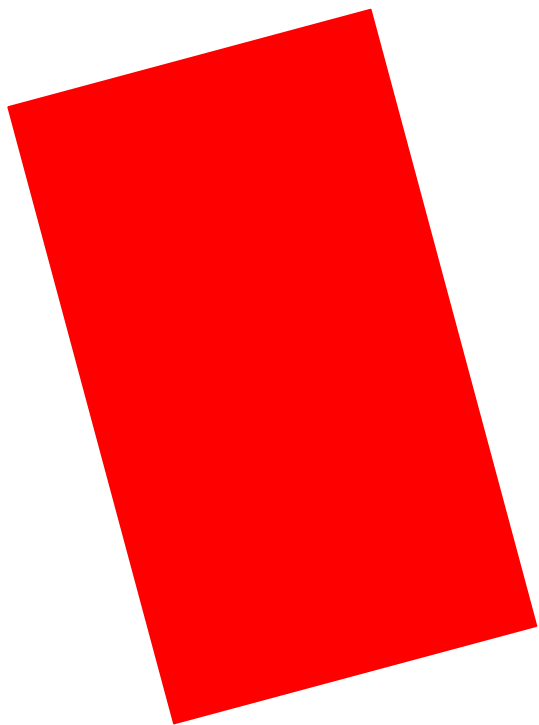
= 12m



= 10m



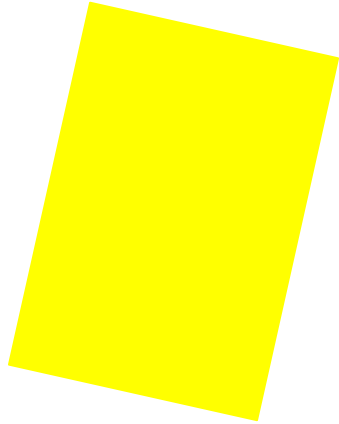
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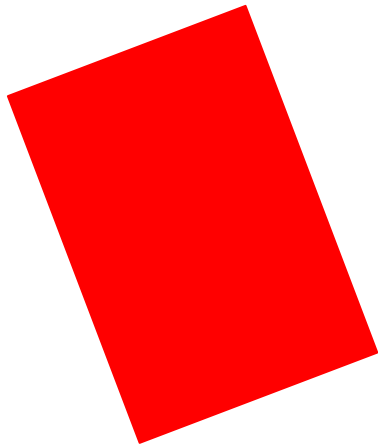
10m



How many fields in professional clubs
in Scotland have 4G fields?



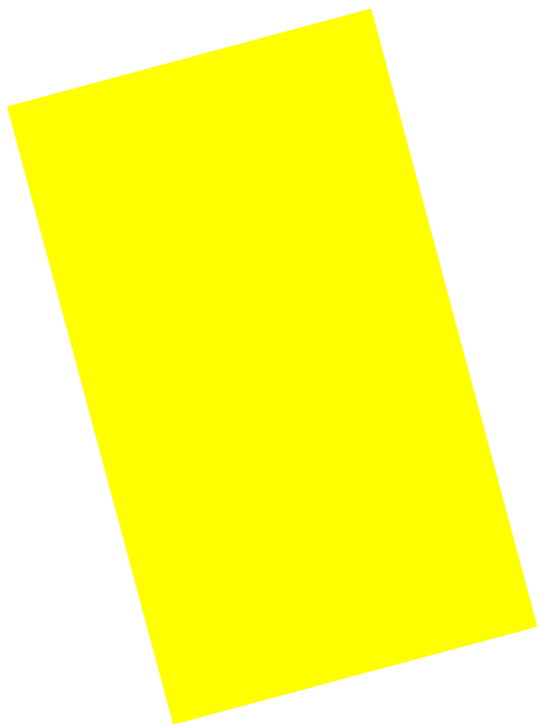
= Zero



= Four



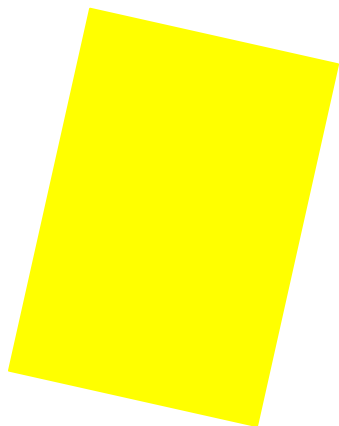
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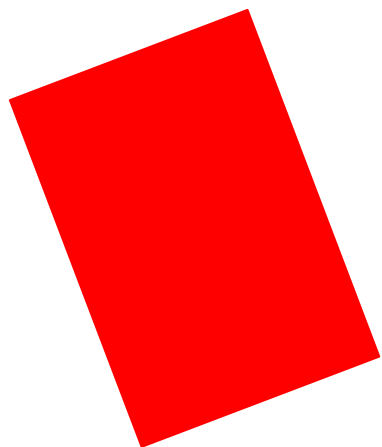
Zero



How often should a pitch be de-compacted following an average month usage?



= Once every month



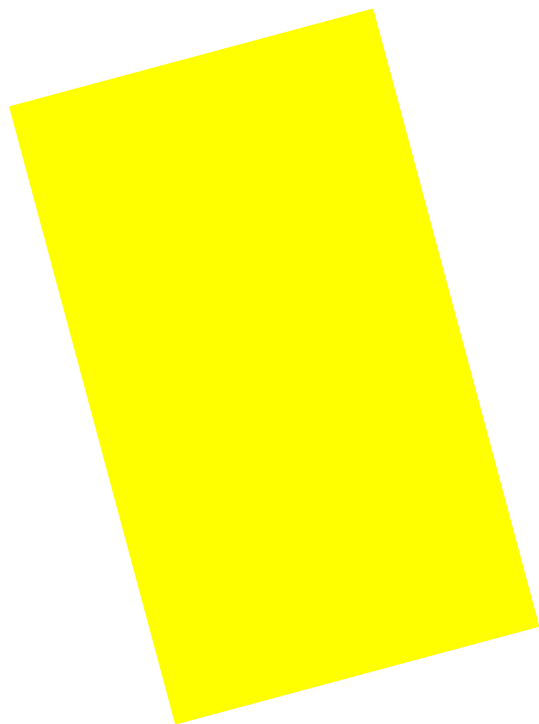
= Once every week



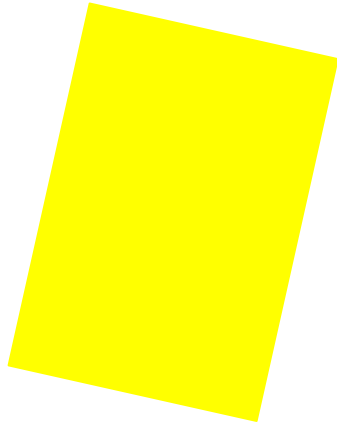
The correct answer is...



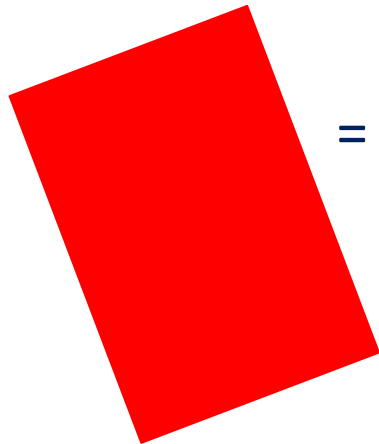
Once every month



How often is a FIFA retest for a 1 star?



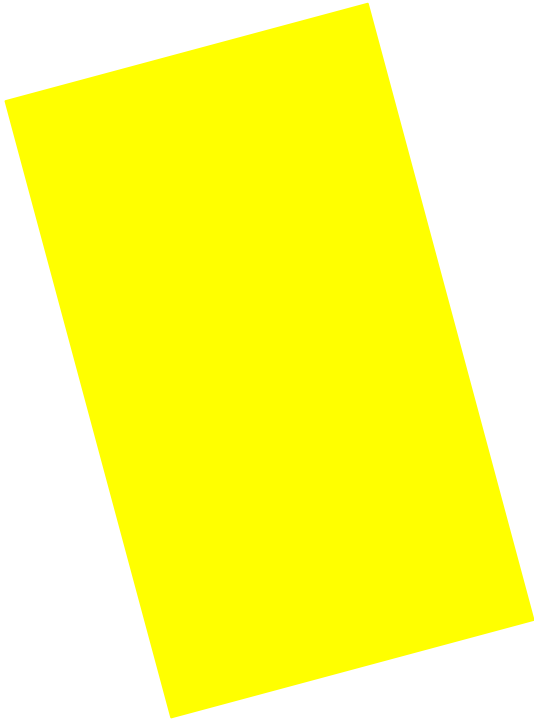
= Every 4 years



= Every year



The correct answer is...



= Every 4 years





**That's enough from me...
...now over to the experts...**

**Thanks and enjoy the
rest of your day with us!**

