

Flooding

How to Plan Ahead

What to do to minimise the impact of future flooding of your sports facilities



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Issues to consider

- Finding out if your facility is at risk of flooding is easy to do and will help you to begin the flood planning process. One in four sports clubs are at risk of flooding so it is essential that you find out.
- Localised flooding often occurs because of poorly maintained ditches and culverts. By conducting regular maintenance of your drainage system and working with local landowners and local authorities to ensure they do the same, you can help reduce the risk of localised flooding.
- Planning ahead enables you to decide what to do before a flood. This will help you to limit damage as well as the cost of flooding and enable the sports facilities are back in use as quickly as possible.

Finding out if your facility is at risk of flooding is easy to do - it is essential that you find out.

Actions

1. Identify if your ground is at risk of flooding

Flooding from rivers or the sea

Visit the Environment Agency website and view their flood map at: <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods/default.aspx>

Other potential sources of flooding such as culverts and ditches

Local knowledge is invaluable – speak to your local council and some of the older members of your clubs as they will have a historical perspective of flooding on and around your ground.

2. Ensure regular inspection and maintenance is carried out to drainage courses

For ditches and culverts immediately adjacent to your ground do simple, but regular, visual inspections to ensure that there is no debris or potential blockages that will restrict the flow of water. Do not put anyone at risk while doing these inspections. If you are in any doubt seek advice from an experienced person such as a local farmer or drainage consultant.

For ditches or culverts that are close to your site you will need to identify who is responsible for maintaining these and work with them to ensure that they are regularly inspected and maintained.

3. Sign up for Flood Alerts

So that you have as much time as possible you should sign up for flood alerts from the Environment Agency. You can do this at: <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods/38289.aspx>

4. Develop a club flood plan and test it

So that you and everyone else at your club know what to do when a flood is imminent you should develop a club flood plan and then test it.

All key personnel should have a copy of the plan and also you should put a copy on the club noticeboard and website so that the whole club can be aware that a flood plan is in place. For further advice on developing a flood plan see Flood Information Sheet 2 'Developing a club flood plan'.

5. Make sure you are adequately insured

Speak to your insurers about flood insurance and ensure that you understand what cover you have and what your responsibilities are. The insurers will expect you to take all reasonable steps to reduce the impact of any flood and in addition they will have specific requirements for the club to meet should a flood occur. Some clubs may benefit from the advice and support of a specialist broker. Your governing body may be able to help you with the name of a local broker who is supporting other sport clubs in the area

6. Adopt a 'Flood Resilient' Design Approach to building work and new sport facilities

While it is impossible to completely flood-proof your building or sports facilities, there are many things you can do to minimise damage and get the sports facilities back in use as quickly as possible. For more information see Information Sheet 3 'Flooding : Flood Resilient Design'

7. At the end of the season move expensive equipment out of the way of any flood

This includes vulnerable electrical equipment in the clubhouse as well as expensive/critical grounds maintenance equipment that would be affected by any flood.

Further help and information

Further help and advice can be found on the following flood information sheets produced by Sport England and the governing bodies of sport.

- **Developing a club flood plan** – Making sure everyone knows what to do in a flood.
- **Flood resilient design** - How to make sports facilities more resilient to flooding
- **Flood alert / warning received** - What to do to minimise the impact of flooding following a flood alert / flood warning.
- **After the flood – buildings** – How to recover from a flood safely and quickly
- **After the flood – pitches and courts** – How to recover from a flood safely and quickly.

Seek professional advice

We strongly recommend that you seek professional advice from a building surveyor, architect or other independent professional if you are considering flood protection and or recovery solutions for your property and facilities.

There is no formal assurance scheme for flood surveyors, but the following professional institutions hold lists of members who have undergone internal vetting and adhere to a common code of conduct:

- Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)
<http://www.rics.org/uk/>
- Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)
<http://www.architecture.com/Home.aspx>

Check with your local Environment Agency office

if you plan to take measures which could affect the flow of a river or divert flood water to other properties. Call them on **03708 506 506** and ask to speak to someone in the Partnerships and Strategic Overview team in your local area.

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This guidance is one of a series of information sheets that have been developed by Sport England, the England and Wales Cricket Board, the Football Association, the Rugby Football League, the Rugby Football Union, The Lawn Tennis Association and England Hockey to provide simple advice to voluntary clubs on minimising the impact of flooding on their sports facilities and to enable them to plan and act safely and effectively.

These sheets are not intended to replace experienced expert advisors from the local authority, Environment Agency or specialist consultant.



Alternative Languages and Formats:

This document can be provided in alternative languages, or alternative formats such as large print, Braille, tape and on disk upon request. Call the Sport England switchboard on 08458 508 508 for more details.

National Governing Bodies Main Offices:

England and Wales Cricket Board	020 7432 1200	http://www.ecb.co.uk/
England Hockey Board	01628 897500	http://www.englishockey.co.uk/
Lawn Tennis Association	020 8487 7000	http://www.lta.org.uk/
Rugby Football League	0844 477 7113	http://www.the rfl.co.uk/
Rugby Football Union	0871 222 2120	http://www.rfu.com/
The Football Association	0844 980 8200	http://www.thefa.com/

User Guide:

Before using this guidance for any specific projects all users should refer to the User Guide to understand when and how to use the guidance as well as understanding the limitations of use.

Click here for **'User Guide'**

Click here for current **'Design and Cost Guidance'**

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Further Information:

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