

FOOTBALL PITCH LETS (ALLOCATION POLICY)

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

The criteria for pitch allocation for Football Pitches and Training venues are as follows:

1. All groups/teams/clubs/organisations wishing to make use of East Renfrewshire Council's outdoor sports pitch facilities must be registered under the Council's Registration Scheme, which is free of charge.
2. Teams must be registered with a local or national association in order to apply for Council lets. (One off requests e.g. gala/charity day matches will be exempt and the small five a side pitches e.g. Woodfarm Cages will be available to groups if there are no clubs/teams taking up these lets and they are lying vacant).
3. All teams from four a side up to and including nineteen's age group level must have achieved or commenced Scottish Football Association Quality Mark and evidence must be submitted to the council confirming this to qualify for lets. Amateur teams and under twenty one level teams do not need to have the SFA quality mark but are encouraged to work towards it.
4. Teams will continue to play and train at their current venues and these venues will be deemed their home pitch and training venue as on as the team are in existence.

NB Allocation of these venues will be set from season 2016/17 on existing 2015/16 allocations, unless teams advise that they no longer require these venues.

5. Requests from teams to change their venue will not be permitted unless a venue has been vacated by another team or a new venue has been constructed.
6. Teams progressing from seven-a-side football to eleven-a-side will be given priority to any available eleven-a-side pitches, as long as their affiliated club has achieved SFA Quality Mark. In the likelihood that there are more teams than venues a ballot will be held to see who is allocated a pitch.
7. When all venues have been allocated to developing teams (from 7-a-side to 11-a-side) any remaining lets will be offered to other teams who have applied for a venue and have achieved SFA Quality Mark. In the event that there are still more teams than venues following this process then a ballot will be held to see who is allocated the remaining lets.
8. Pitches will be allocated on a season long basis to teams, not clubs.

9. Where venues become available part way through the season the Council will look to allocate these to teams who have registered interest at the beginning of the season.
10. Any club/team seeking additional venues/facilities must in advance of registering with a league association consult with the Parks Section to find out if there are pitches available for matches on their designated day. The Council will not be held responsible should teams sign up for a league but there are no pitches available.
11. Teams who book a pitch and fail to turn up for a match on more than three consecutive occasions and do not notify the Council of a cancellation, will be charged full price on each occasion and after a third non-appearance will have their pitch taken from them and allocated to another team.
12. A date will be set annually for the pitch application process. Late applications will only be considered once all other allocations have been made, including allocations of pitches to new teams.
13. Applications from teams who have an outstanding debt will not be considered.

Any new/additional pitches provided by the Authority will be allocated on the basis of assessment of need and requirements of interested clubs as outlined in this policy.

The Council will retain the right at any time to refuse or cancel a booking or to review its booking policy.