



CONDITIONS OF PITCH ALLOCATION – 2021/2022

COVID 19 :- All club's allocated playing pitches by Fingal County Council must ensure they follow the protocols set down by their relevant governing body and Government guidelines.

- Pitches will be let only to those clubs that have submitted an official application form, together with the appropriate letting fee and who have certification from the appropriate League, Board or Association for all teams for whom accommodation is sought. The fees in respect of any letting shall be as is determined by Fingal County Council from year to year.
- The official hours of Closing of Fingal County Council Regional Parks are as follows :

Park Name	January	Feb – March	April	May	June - Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov - Dec
Beech Park	4.00pm	5.00pm	7.00pm	8.00pm	8.00pm	7.00pm	6.00pm	4.00pm
Millennium Park	5.00pm	6.00pm	7.00pm	8.00pm	9.00pm	8.00pm	6.00pm	5.00pm
St. Catherine's Park	5.00pm	6.00pm	8.00pm	9.00pm	9.00pm	8.00pm	7.00pm	5.00pm
Hartstown Park	Main Carpark – closed by club							
Castlecarragh Park	Gates open 24hrs							

- Clubs must **ONLY** use Council pitches that have been allocated to them.
- Clubs are **not** authorised to grant permission to others to use pitches allocated to the Club. If other groups approach the Club for permission to use pitches the applicant should be referred to the Council.
- Where car parks have been provided, clubs must ensure that both their members and the visiting teams avail of these facilities. **Where no car park is provided, please ensure that all cars, including away teams are parked so as to not cause an obstruction or inconvenience to adjoining residents and to avoid unnecessary complaints.** In certain locations that present particular parking difficulties such as poor access and private estates, arrangements may be put in place between the Council and Residents Associations to manage the parking associated with use of the pitches. Where such arrangements are in place they shall be treated as a Condition of Allocation. It will also be the responsibility of the club to ensure that visiting teams are fully aware of and respect the parking agreements. Complaints from residents regarding inappropriate and inconsiderate parking will be investigated and clubs found in breach of this Condition or specific agreements regarding parking will be liable to penalties up to and including withdrawal of all pitch allocations.
- Club members must gain entry to and exit from parks only through the **authorised** entrances and exits.
- Clubs in receipt of an allocated pitch will be responsible for the behaviour of their visiting teams.
- All pitches will be out of play from the 2nd week in December to the first week in February every year.**
- Fingal County Council may close pitches at any time during the year, if in its opinion, the pitch is unplayable. The Council's decision in the matter will be final. Any claim for alternative accommodation arising from any such closure will not be entertained.

No Club or Referee has the right to decide that any pitch is playable were the Council has declared the pitch unplayable. This is solely the function of Fingal County Council. Please note that pitches are declared unplayable by the Parks Superintendent in the interest of maintaining the grass surfaces to enable the pitches to be available for play in the long-term.

Information with regard to the playability of pitches is available every Friday afternoon on the Fingal County Council official website:

www.fingal.ie/Community-and-Leisure/Sports-and-Fitness/Pitches

Please also note that in the larger regional parks the Park Rangers have the power to declare pitches unplayable at their discretion on Saturday or Sunday if weather conditions have deteriorated since Friday when the pitches may have been declared playable.

10. All morning match fixtures must be arranged to terminate not later than 12.45 pm so pitches/pavilions are vacated by 1.00 pm and all afternoon match fixtures made in the period November to January inclusive must terminate not later than 4.00 pm.
11. Mid-week matches are allowed during the period April/May/June only on the pitches allocated to the club for weekend fixtures. Where clubs share a pitch they must ascertain with the other club that there is no clash of fixtures. All matches must be completed before park closing times.
12. The letting of pitches ends with the end of the official season and any club wishing to host 5-a-side competitions etc. during the summer months must have written permission from the Council. A separate application should be made for the use of pitches during the summer months, (applicable to soccer clubs only).
13. A summer sports pitch maintenance programme will be carried out on all pitches, weather permitting between the months of June to August. These essential turf maintenance works will ensure that the playing surface is in suitable condition for the following playing season.
14. Where a club has ladies/girls teams playing in Summer leagues the Council must be notified of pitch requirements prior to the commencement of the Leagues. This notice is required to facilitate Summer renovation works, (applicable to soccer clubs only).
15. Any Club or member of any Club which disregards disobeys or breaks any Condition of Letting may be suspended by Fingal County Council from using the pitch allocated to the Club.
16. It should be noted that Fingal County Council reserves the right to alter pitch allocations within the season, if necessary.
17. Lettings are granted for fixtures only. **No training is permitted on the pitches**
18. It is a Condition of Letting that Clubs take out an Insurance Policy which indemnifies Fingal County Council against all actions, claims, expenses and demands of any kind arising out of the use of pitches by the club and the Council expressly repudiates all liability in respect of such actions, claims, expenses and demands.

PITCHES

19. The sole responsibility for ensuring that the pitch is free from any and all hazards and that each game can proceed without danger to players, officials or other persons using the park shall be on the Club which shall implement all measures necessary to ensure the safety of such persons. This does not alter the Council's sole right to call off pitches depending on weather conditions at the time.
20. Pitches are to be marked with proprietary pitch marking products only. Materials such as "Creosote", weed killer etc. are **not** permitted. Clubs found using herbicide, diesel oil or creosote to mark pitches will be liable to penalties up to and including withdrawal of all pitch allocations.
21. Clubs must remove all litter, including tape, sweet wrappers, plastic bottles and medical waste from pitches and both side-lines/end lines after each game. Clubs found in breach of this condition will be liable to penalties up to and including withdrawal of all pitch allocations.
22. Under no circumstances are clubs allowed to cut grass pitches in the ownership of Fingal County Council. These works will be carried out by fully trained Council staff **ONLY**.
23. In order to facilitate maintenance works of the pitches, clubs are required to inform the Operations Department of their Season dates in advance.

24. Nets are to be secured to posts only by using the “Netfix” system or plastic ‘S’ net ties only. Clubs will be responsible for providing toggles to attach the nets to the “Netfix” slots provided on goalposts.

The use of twine, tape, nails, hooks etc. is strictly prohibited. Clubs found using nails, hooks, tape or twine to secure nets to posts will be liable to penalties up to and including withdrawal of all pitch allocations.

25. Where steel pins or ground anchors are used to secure nets these must be removed immediately following each game. Under no circumstances may pins or ground anchors be left in or on the ground when a pitch is not in use. Clubs found in breach of this condition will be liable to penalties up to and including withdrawal of all pitch allocations.

26. (i) All portable and demountable goalposts must be secured with a system that meets the requirements of IS EN 748: 1996 through the use of weights or pins. Use of portable or demountable goals that do not meet this standard is strictly prohibited. The club must designate a person to ensure goals are assembled and secured properly before each game and a written record of this inspection retained. Written records of all such inspections must be available for inspection by the Council at any time.

(ii) Portable and demountable goal posts must be tested annually in accordance with the methods set out in IS EN 748:1996. Documentary evidence must be submitted to the Council confirming that portable and demountable goal posts were manufactured and tested to the standards set out in IS EN 748 and that the posts were tested and passed an annual test to IS EN 748: 1996 prior to the start of the season. Pitch allocations for small sided games will not be processed unless documentary evidence of testing is submitted to the Council.

27. Rugby clubs must provide padding for goalpost uprights as recommended by the relevant national governing bodies and remove on completion of games.

CONDITIONS OF DRESSING ROOM USAGE

ONLY APPLICABLE TO CLUBS WHO HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED DRESSING ROOMS

- A. Clubs must provide a sufficient number of stewards to keep order in the dressing rooms and on pitches and must prevent unauthorised entry to the pavilion. No responsibility or liability is accepted by Fingal County Council for loss or damage to any property left in pavilions.
- B. Clubs must accept responsibility for the conduct of all persons admitted to dressing rooms; for keeping them clean and tidy and for repair of any damage caused to them.
- C. It will be the duty of the club to provide all sundries such as toilet paper, cleaning equipment, cleaning materials etc. required to maintain the dressing rooms.
- D. The Council reserves the right to visit the changing rooms at any time and to inform the club that it will, at a cost to be taken from the bond, clean or repair the facilities.
- E. Bonds and Annual Fees are to be determined each year by Fingal County Council.
- F. Where dressing rooms have been provided, keys must be returned at the end of the Season.
- G. Bonds will only be repaid when a club relinquishes changing rooms in a satisfactory condition.

Please Retain a Copy of these Conditions of Letting for your Information throughout the Coming Season