Criterion (page no. in 2024/25 criteria document)	Amendment / Comment	Rationale
Various – typographical amends	Amendments to correct spelling, uppercase to link to definitions or other typographical, non-material amendments.	As applicable.
1.1 – General (p11)	The ground must give an overall appearance and impression of being a football ground suitable for the level of the National League System or Womens Football Pyramid at which it is operating. This includes general tidiness and being free from loose stone or objects within the ground that may reasonably be used as missiles.	This has been introduced owing to the criteria document now being applicable for both the mens National League System and the Womens Football Pyramid.
	In the case of those seeking placement at Step 6entry to either the National League System or Womens Football Pyramid, the ground must be suitable for the level of the National League System or Womens Football Pyramid at which they are seeking to operate	
1.2 – Capacity (p12)	At Grades 1 and 2, Tthe stadium must have a minimum capacity of spectators in line with the chart below, inclusive of any seated spectators, At Grades 1, 2 and 3, This must be demonstrable and certified by the local authority or	The requirement for a minimum capacity at Grades 1 & 2 remains. The requirement for a minimum capacity at Grades 3 & 4 has
	calculated by an approved cCompetent pPerson, in accordance with the current edition of the 'Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds' (commonly known as and referred to in this document as the 'Green Guide') at the time of inspection. At Grade 4, a Club must confirm that the capacity calculation has been calculated by the local authority or by a competent person, in accordance with the current edition of the 'Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds' (Green Guide) but this does not	been removed, however, Clubs ought to be mindful of the need to comply if promoted to Step 2. Explicit clarity is also given to the calculation of capacity for flat areas – something Clubs had been falling foul of – both in terms of not leaving a clear walkway and also that a flat area can only achieve a maximum of four-deep, with sufficient room.

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	have to be demonstrable. Where a Club is confirmed as promoted to Step 2, they must submit an initial capacity calculation (carried out in accordance with the procedure above) to The National League by 31st May in the season the Club is promoted.	**NOTE** there will also be an addition in the form of an advisory note concerning the "Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill", commonly known as 'Martyn's Law', in du course once finer details are known.
	When calculating the capacity of a ground Clubs are reminded that this will be in accordance with the Green Guide. The Green Guide requires a minimum of 0.9m hardstanding clear walkway around the sides of the pitch which should not be occupied by spectators and cannot be included in the capacity calculation. Flat, bound surfaces can only have a maximum depth of four rows of people (subject to there being room to have four-deep) e.g: length of flat standing area (m) x 1.5m (maximum flat viewing depth) x 4.7 (density per sq/m). Flat, well maintained grassed areas (where permitted to be within an enclosed ground) will not count towards the capacity calculation.	
	The FA and/or the relevant League reserve the right to appoint a suitably-qualified person to review and, if found necessary, amend the capacity figure. Such intervention may be at the cost of the Club.	
	It is in the best interest of each Club to hold an official capacity figure, even if not required by the criteria below, as this will help Clubs to maximise attendances for fixtures that could attract large crowds.	

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	GRADE 3 A Whilst no formal calculation is required, Clubs should aim for a minimum capacity of 1,950 is required, with the (demonstrable) potential to increase this to 3,000 in the future. As is listed above, if a Club is promoted to Step 2 it will need to demonstrate that a minimum capacity of 1,950 is currently met and show plans as to how a capacity of 3,000 will be met by the following 31 March. GRADE 4 A Whilst no formal capacity calculation is required Clubs should aim for a capacity of 1,300 is required. GRADE 5 GRADE 6 GRADE 7 There is no minimum capacity at this level, but a club should be mindful that the minimum requirement for Grade 4-2 is 1,3003,000 and that 1,950 and 1,300 are suggested for Grades 3 and 4, respectively.	
1.3 – Boundary of Ground (p13)	At Steps 1 to 5, there must be no Public Right of Way (see 'advisory' for definition) through an enclosed ground. At Step 6, where a Public Right of Way (see 'advisory' for definition) through an enclosed ground is present, the Club must present documentation that adequately demonstrates that such Right of Way is not permitted on matchdays. Such	There are some grounds with a Public Right of Way through the ground, which is not acceptable and does not create an enclosed ground. At Grade 6, if one exists and can be appropriately managed, this will be acceptable.

Criterion (page no. in 2024/25 criteria document)	Amendment / Comment documentation will then be considered by the Stadium Accreditation Committee and will be subject to review at the notice of the Committee.		Rationale
	GRADE 1 GRADE 2 GRADE 3 GRADE 4	Prevent viewing from outside ground? Must prevent the ability for individuals from to viewing the game comfortably from outside the ground (i.e. not have an unimpeded, significant view of the field of play, see both goal posts etc). "Public Right of Way":- A public right of way is a legally defined path or route that anyone can use, generally for walking, sometimes for other activities like horse riding or cycling, and sometimes even vehicular traffic. These rights of way are established through legal processes and are considered public highways, meaning they are subject to legal protection like all other public roads.	
		Legal Right Public rights of way are not just paths; they represent a legal right for the public to use a specific route.	

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	Types of Rights of Way The term "public right of way" encompasses various types, including footpaths (for walkers), bridleways (for walkers, horse riders, and cyclists), restricted byways (allowing walking, horse riding, cycling, and horse-drawn vehicles), and byways open to all traffic (BOATs) which can be used by all types of traffic. Land Ownership It's important to note that public rights of way can exist on land that is privately owned. The public has a legal right to use these routes despite the landowner's ownership. Public Right of Way Officer Clubs are advised to speak to their local Public Right of Way Officer should any clarity be sought.	

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1.4 – Clubhouse (p15)	ADVISORY It is a strong recommended that clubhouses have a dedicated provision for accessible toilets. Please note: the Committee intends to carry out an audit of accessible facilities in NLS/WFP football stadia. In the interim, when making improvements to a grounds toilet facilities, Clubs are strongly recommended to seek professional guidance as to how they can make their facilities more accessible.	An advisory notice regarding accessible toilets within clubhouses. The Committee intends to actively review the landscape with a view to making this mandatory in future seasons.
1.6 - Pitch Perimeter Barrier (p19)	Subject to the provisions detailed below, there must be a permanent fixed barrier ideally 1.1 metres high (save for where a lowered barrier is required for sightline purposes) as measured from the spectator side, of sound construction (e.g. concrete and steel) and free from all sharp edges, surrounding the pitch on all sides that may be occupied by spectators. Existing barriers/rails of less than 1.1 metres in height may be acceptable, provided they meet the requirements set out in the advisory section below. There must be a minimal gap between the edge of the hardstanding and the vertical point from the bar at the top of the pitch perimeter barrier. In all cases this must not exceed 30 centimetres.	There may be a valid reason to lower the pitch perimeter barrier for sightline reasons and so a provision for this has been entered. Clarity is given with regards to the permitted gap, as this was causing confusion. The run-off section remains but is moved to the pitch criteria. A-frames are to be infilled with sponsorship/plain boards and not left as a simple metal A-frame without panels.
	There must be a minimum of 1.83 metres (*for Grade 1 – see the table below) between the touchline, goal line and the pitch perimeter barrier. This run-off must be of the same	

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	material as the playing surface — i.e. grass or artificial turf — save for where artificial turf has been professionally laid without trip hazards, as part of the run-off for example: as per an assistant referees running area. Athletics stadia may be permitted to use running track material in the very corners where the track bends, as long as The FA have provided approval.	
	Immediately in front of seated accommodation, the boundary of the playing area may be indicated by means other than a permanent fixed barrier, provided that the Club is able to provide assurances that no spectator will be allowed to stand in this area to watch the match.	
	Where there is a walkway in front of a standing terrace that itself is fronted by a crush barrier that has been subject to an annual risk assessment and, if necessary, tested, an alternative to a fixed barrier (e.g. infilled A-frames) may be used, provided no spectators are allowed to stand in this area to watch the match. The Club must implement a safety management system to ensure this, which also protects the integrity of the playing area.	
	Where A-frames are utilised instead of a fixed barrier, they must be continuous and infilled.	
1.7 – Pitch Standards (p21)	The Competition's Board of Directors or Management Committee may require a club at any time to undertake a	A NLS/WFP version of the PitchPower application is currently being tested. This app will assist in detailing the quality of a given pitch. A League now has the power to instruct a Club to carry out such an assessment if there are

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	PitchPower performance test if it felt that a pitch is not of the highest-possible standard (e.g. if the fulfilment of fixtures appears to be impacted by grass pitch quality) or to assess suitability of hosting a ground share. Run-Offs: There must be a minimum of 1.83 metres (*for Grade 1 – see the table below) between the touchline, goal line and the	concerns about a proposed or existing ground share agreement on a grass pitch. Run-offs added as per the comment above. Spare goals being stored around the ground (mainly but not exclusively on Artificial Turf Pitches) are becoming problematic and in some instances pose potential hazards. These goals are to be removed for matches and stored in the dedicated goalpost storage lock-ups.
	pitch perimeter barrier. This run-off must be of the same material as the playing surface – i.e. grass or artificial turf – save for where artificial turf has been professionally laid without trip hazards, as part of the run-off for example: as per an assistant referees running area. Where an assistant referee's running area is artificial turf on a grass pitch, this must be continuous – i.e. not changing from one surface to another along the running area. Athletics stadia may be permitted to use running track material in the very corners where the track bends (and in some circumstances to the length and width of a pitch), provided The FA have given approval.	A new rule has been created detailing the timelines and procedure for the conversion of grass pitches to Artificial Turf Pitches.
	Spare goal storage: Where a ground has spare portable goals these must be stored in a dedicated goal storage area and not left on the	

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	pitch run-off. Any such storage must not affect spectator viewing or interfere with the players' eye line.	
	New Rules have been introduced in the summer of 2025 to regulate the timeframes permitted when converting artificial turf pitches:	
	No installation works shall commence until such time as the Competition has given written approval for the proposed installation and the timetable thereof. The Competition will not grant approval unless the Club is able to evidence that:	
	 Installation works are scheduled to take place before 15 July in any year with a confirmed end date. Any necessary funding for the installation works is in place. 	
	 A fully executed groundshare agreement (in a form acceptable to the Competition) is in place for the period of the installation. Where required pursuant to a lease, permission for the installation works has been obtained. 	
	If approval is granted but installation works do not commence by 15 July in the relevant year, the Competition may withdraw its approval and order that the works cannot commence until the end of the Playing Season	

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1.8 – Playing Area (p23)			Tidied the paragraph concerning ground shares with Clubs who may use the facility for FIFA/UFFA Competition (e.g.	
()23)	NEW BUILDS AND CONVERSIONS	New pitches must be a minimum of 100 metres x 64 metres and must conform to the requirements of the Laws of the Game. The run-off around the pitch should ideally be four metres or a minimum of three metres. Clubs whose grounds might be involved inhosting FIFA or UEFA competitions matches must consult specific guidance as the standard size recommendations are greater than the requirements above.	who may use the facility for FIFA/UEFA Competition (e.g. Womens Champions League or Youth Champions League fixtures).	
1.9 – Technical Areas (p24)	A technical area must be marked out, in accordance with the guidance contained in the 'Laws of the Game' booklet and be of equal size:- [diagram will be included] The only exception to the width of the technical areas exceeding 1m either or both sides of the dugouts is in cases where markings are stitched into Artificial Turf Pitches and have been 'future-proofed' for larger dugouts at the higher Grade		A diagram will be produced to demonstrate a compliant technical area as this has been a large fail point over the last 24 months. Clarification also added for non-compliant Artificial Turf Pitch technical areas that have been future-proofed for larger dugouts in the future. **NOTE** discussions ongoing about potentially increasing the minimum dugout size for Grades 3 & 4 to be 11 persons in each. To be confirmed.	

Criterion (page no. in 2024/25 criteria document)	Amendment / Comment	Rationale
1.10 – Safe Walkway (p26)	There must be a safe, unimpeded passage for players and match officials between the dressing rooms and the pitch. The design of the safe-secure walkway will inevitably differ from ground to ground and it will rarely guarantee the safe passage of players and match officials unless supplemented by stewards. A club-Club should implement procedures appropriate to the particular structure and be ready to respond to on-field situations which might affect spectator behaviour. GRADE 1 GRADE 2 GRADE 3 GRADE 3 GRADE 4 GRADE 5 GRADE 5 GRADE 6	Amended to "Secure" walkway amongst other minor amendments.
1.11 – Floodlighting (p28)	**SUBJECT TO COMMITTEE APPROVAL** Floodlights must not have operational restrictions that impact on the ability to host or complete Saturday matches with a 3pm kick-off and/or one midweek evening per week with a	The Committee will consider this in due course. This is to prevent the scenario whereby a Club installs floodlights that it ultimately cannot adequately use.

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	7:45pm kick-off. This includes the possibility of extra time and kicks from the penalty mark in some competitions.	
1.14 – Exits (p31)	All spectator exits must be clearly signed, ideally with appropriate 'running man' signs and for Grades 1 & 2 be numbered or lettered (e.g. "Exit 1", "Exit A"), and are to be kept clear and free from obstructions. For further information, reference should be made to the Sports Ground Safety Authority — Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds. Green Guide. There must be access via a bound surface must be provided connecting to all any exits from the nearest spectator viewing areas (i.e. pitch perimeter hardstanding)	When undertaking a capacity calculation, the report will need clarity as to which exit is which, and this is also important in the case of an evacuation where the tannoy announcer is directing people to appropriate exits.
1.18 – Emergency Access (p32)	Access must be provided for the emergency services and be maintained so that they are free from obstruction. Access will differ from ground to ground but principles of appropriate access would include: gates on the pitch perimeter barrier to allow ambulance access (or at least, access for a wheeled stretcher/spinal board to be navigated without challenge, hard standing from the point of the barrier gates to the designated ambulance access route, ideally the route to be marked with yellow cross-hatching (at worst, that stewards know where to screen off to allow emergency access to and from the pitch, a designated ambulance parking space that has easy access to the pitch and/or clubhouse/medical room).	This area was traditionally very brief. The Committee has attempted to assist by listing considerations as to what emergency access may look like.

Criterion (page no. in 2024/25 criteria document)	Amendment / Comment	Rationale
2.1 – Spectator Accommodation (p33)	Covered accommodation, which should preferably be on at least two sides of the ground, must be of sound construction of timber/steel/brick/concrete or any combination of these materials. Requirements regarding spectator numbers for such covered accommodation are set-out in the table below. Existing timber stands are only acceptable subject to a fire risk assessment conducted by a competent person.	The intention is not to limit a Club to two sides only, but a preference to a minimum of two sides. Clarity that any seats which do not provide a good view will be deducted from the total. In the same way as a maximum of four-deep (if sufficient room exists) on flat uncovered ground, the same applies for
	All seating must afford a good view of the pitch and be clean, functional and in good condition. Where seats do not afford a good view of the pitch these will be deducted from the total attributable to a stands' capacity.	flat covered accommodation. Clarity concerning hard-standing and what constitutes a bound material. There are a very small number of issues on historic grounds that had previously been given a letter of dispensation, which have had to be accepted with an annual review.
	When calculating the capacity of a covered standing stand, this shall be in accordance with the Green Guide. Note: that flat levels can only be populated at four people deep as a maximum, provided the room available permits and a minimum 0.9m wide clear walkway is maintained.	Clarity that for Grade 1 it is intended to be any flat areas within the "immediate" ground. Over time, some grounds have expanded their footprint to include things like fan zones and it is not proportionate to include some of these within the current criteria.
	Hard standing As listed below, acceptable hard standing materials include tarmac, concrete and concrete paving. Any other materials which create a bound material must be approved by The FA. For the avoidance of doubt, artificial turf does not constitute	Grade 2 had a missing sentence and so this has been added.

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	as hard standing (save for where dispensation was provided prior to the 2016/17 season). Where 'well maintained' grassed areas' are permitted, artificial turf may be used in those areas provided that it is professionally installed (this will not be counted as hard standing for capacity figures, however). Short pile artificial turf may be used as a walkway in stadia where large stands exist but spectators are not permitted to view games from it. Such arrangement must professionally installed, on a flat surface and maintained standing to resent a trip or slip hazard.	<u>s</u> <u>ay</u> <u>be</u>
	Hard standing GRADE 1 Any level surfaces within the immediate ground must be hard standing. i.e. tarmac, concrete, concrete paving or other approved materials	
	Min. covered accommodation GRADE 2 For 500 of which 250 are seats. With no standattributable to the capacity calculation if less than 100 seats	-

Criterion (page no. in 2024/25 criteria document)	Amendmen	t / Comment	Rationale
2.4 – Toilets (p40)	and the facil changing fac toiletry prov that are gene means of dis This can inclu is also strong	couraged to consider the needs of all spectators ties that they might require such as babyilities, facilities for young children and women's sion. In female and accessible toilets (or those der neutral) Clubs must provide an appropriate posal for sanitary products in female washrooms, ude providing sanitary bins and sanitary bags. It they advised that there is one such bin provided in or the disposal of any men's medical waste.	This amendment has been introduced following supporter engagement/feed back. Whilst the male WC requirement is not mandatory, this does allow for things like stoma bag paraphernalia to be adequately and discreetly disposed of.
2.5.2 – Ground refreshment facilities (p44)		facilities, which may be <u>permanent or</u> of the must be available to spectators in:	Previously, there was no explicit mention of "permanent" being an option – just that the facility may be of the mobile type.
	GRADE 2 GRADE 3 GRADE 4	In addition, where segregation is deployed, refreshment facilities will be required in Eeach separate segregated area of the ground. Where multiple large stands in a stadium exist, then refreshment facilities should be available so that all spectators have access to at least one facility.	The Grade 1 to 4 grade-specific requirements has been clarified. Previously, each area in the ground required an offering. The intention in that statement was for segregated matches. As few are segregated, this has been expanded upon to explain the position.

Criterion (page no. in 2024/25 criteria document)	Amendment / Comment	Rationale
3.1 – Dressing Room Facilities: Players (p47)	All shower heads and hand wash basins listed below must have hot and cold running water. Hand wash basins and hand drying facilities must be located outside the shower area. WCs must be in cubicles that are contained within the dressing room and not in an adjacent room in a corridor. WCs can replace urinals, but not vice-versa. Clubs must provide an appropriate means of disposal for sanitary products in dressing rooms. This can include providing sanitary bins and sanitary bags. This is irrelevant of whether or not the ground currently hosts a regular female team. There must be a treatment table which is clean and in good condition in each dressing room or within a players medical room within the vicinity of the dressing rooms (note: there must be two separate treatment tables – one for each competing team and this must not be a shared provision.	No previous mention of hand-drying facilities, which is an expected requirement. The Committee wants to ensure that the stadia stock that we have across the two pyramids is compatible with one another's needs. The decision has been taken to maximise the opportunity of hosting WFP clubs at NLS grounds and this amendment is one of the final anomalies between the two sets of Grades which required harmonisation. Notwithstanding the harmonisation point, these bins do serve other purposes as per above on the amendments to criterion 2.4. Some Clubs do not have a treatment table in the Home dressing room as they utilise the one in the players medical room. This allows for that principle, but Clubs need to be mindful that if a serious injury occurs to a player in the first half of a match, this could leave the home team without a treatment table at half time.
3.2 – Dressing Room Facilities: Match Officials (p49)	All dressing room areas must be maintained to a high standard of cleanliness and be heated, well-ventilated and secure on matchdays. Clubs must provide an appropriate means of disposal for sanitary products in dressing rooms. This can include providing sanitary bins and sanitary bags	As per the point on 3.1.