

Three questions for your contractor

Before a committee signs for a new synthetic pitch, put these three questions in writing and keep the answers with the contract.

Why: the 2031 ban

From 17 October 2031, granular rubber-crumb infill can no longer be placed on the market in the EU, under Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/2055. Ireland included. The ban is on supply, not on use: an existing pitch can keep being played on, but there is no legal top-up to buy. A crumb pitch laid in 2027 is four years old when that happens.

1 What is the infill?

If the answer is rubber crumb, SBR, or a recycled tyre granule, it is covered by the ban.

Contractor's answer, in writing:

2 What does the pitch need after 2031?

Ask how the pitch is maintained once infill cannot be bought, and who carries that cost.

Contractor's answer, in writing:

3 Who is responsible for the infill on the ground?

Crumb that leaves the pitch is the club's problem: drains, the car park, the river behind the ground.

Contractor's answer, in writing:

Contractor: _____

Date: _____

Received by (club officer): _____

Source: Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/2055, Annex XVII entry 78, paragraph 6(j). eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/2055/oj

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None of our three surfaces uses rubber or plastic infill. Nothing to top up, nothing for the ban to touch.