

Fact sheet

Sports Field Capacity Development Programme



Help take care of our artificial fields

Together we're investing millions of dollars in providing new artificial sports fields across Auckland. We need your help to look after them.

The funding for these projects is allocated by council and our local boards, on behalf of the residents and the ratepayers of Auckland. It's fairly simple – the better we look after our artificial fields, the longer we will have them and the more we can build.

This is not just about the players either. We need all people that visit our sports grounds to help out. Please read the following information about our artificial field care code, and why it's important.

All visitors to our artificial turfs

1. Only players and officials are allowed on the turf

This means that the turf is used just for sports games or training and by players and officials wearing the right footwear.

2. No smoking, fires or fireworks

All of council's playing fields and playgrounds are smokefree. This is part of council's commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of Aucklanders. Fires and fireworks are prohibited on most of our parks and can cause damage to park facilities, especially artificial turf.

3. No vehicles, bikes or scooters

Vehicles of any kind, bikes (including children's bikes and tricycles) and scooters can cause significant damage to the fibres on the artificial turf. Wheels can catch on the fibres and can squash the turf surface, causing irreparable damage.

Falling from a bike or scooter onto the turf, which is not designed for this kind of use, could also cause personal injury.

4. No dogs

Dogs are not allowed on any council playing fields. This is for health and hygiene reasons, as well as removing the risk of damage caused by dogs that like to dig or chew things.

Players and officials

In addition to the above rules, there are some important things that players and officials can do to keep these playing surfaces in good condition. Also, please remind other visitors and spectators, or tell your friends and family, that only players and officials are permitted on the turf.

5. Footwear

All types of footwear are acceptable on Ashley Reserve except for metal spikes.

Please also make sure your footwear is clean before you go onto the turf. This helps keep the turf clean and pleasant for you to play on.

6. Food and drinks

Water, plastic bottles and no food – that's the main message here.

Please bring water only and in plastic bottles – no other drinks, food, sweets or chewing gum. Food and drinks can harm the turf, with sugary items causing the most damage, especially when they heat up in the sun, become sticky and cause the turf fibres to clump together. This cannot be easily cleaned or fixed.

There's also the matter of health and hygiene with food and drinks contributing to bacteria.

To protect the surface and turf users, glass bottles are not allowed.

7. No spitting

Another health and hygiene measure. Prohibiting spitting on the field is important for maintaining the cleanliness and safety of the turf. Unlike soil, grass and sand fields, spitting cannot be safely absorbed on an artificial turf.

8. Dispose of strapping and litter thoughtfully

Please don't discard strapping and rubbish on the field. Sticky tape can damage the turf's fibres and, if left on the field for a long time or in extreme weather, can cause even greater damage.

Thank you for doing your part to look after our artificial turf. Please share this information with fellow players and officials, spectators and other visitors to the park.

Please report damage or vandalism to council immediately on 09 301 0101.

If you have concerns about the way a group, club or team is using your park or artificial turf, please speak to the club, the organisers or contact council directly.