

# ARTIFICIAL TURF UPDATE

October 12, 2011



With the addition of further Accredited Test Institutes and the application and interview process for the next round of IRB Preferred Turf Producers about to begin, the IRB *One Turf* programme is paving the way for more and more Regulation 22 compliant pitches to be installed globally.

**Below are the steps which a club, Union or local authority should take to have an artificial pitch installed.**

- Step 1** Those seeking to install an artificial playing surface must ensure compliance with the IRB Performance Specification for Artificial Turf
- Step 2** Engage with a reputable consultant familiar with IRB Regulation 22 and/or FIFA Quality Concept
- Step 3** Consultant produces tender document for manufacturer/IRB Preferred Turf Producer
- Step 4** Selected manufacturer/IRB Preferred Turf Producer submits product to IRB Accredited Test Institute for laboratory testing
- Step 5** Laboratory approved product is installed
- Step 6** Installed pitch undergoes field testing by IRB Accredited Test Institute
- Step 7** When pitch passes field testing it is certified by the IRB Regional Association/Member Union

## IRB PERFORMANCE SPECIFICATION

In 2011, the new IRB Performance Specification was released. This specification has now been in place since March with the new HIC requirement of 1.3m. There must no longer be products manufactured, sold or installed to the old HIC specification of 1m.

## NEW PREFERRED TURF PRODUCERS

This month the second round of applications for the IRB Preferred Turf Producers is open. The closing date for applications is Nov 30, 2011. This timeline will accommodate the interview process before the contract start date of Jan 1, 2012.

The next set of Preferred Turf Producers will be announced in February, 2012 and these contracts will run for two years from that date. This scheme presents an opportunity for more artificial turf manufacturers to join the prestigious IRB Preferred Turf Producer scheme which already includes the following companies:

FieldTurf Tarkett



THE ULTIMATE  
SURFACE EXPERIENCE

Greenfields B.V.



Limonta Sport S.P.A.



Mondo S.P.A.



SIS (Support in Sport)



## ARTIFICIAL TURF SEMINARS

### Wales

In July of this year, at the request of the Welsh Rugby Union, the IRB, in conjunction with the RFU, held an information day on the feasibility of using artificial turf for multi-sport purposes. Present in the WRU National Centre of Excellence at the Vale of Glamorgan were representatives from local authorities, Rugby clubs and the Football Association of Wales. This event provided a language for discussion with artificial turf suppliers and an opportunity to visit the artificial surfaces installed at the centre.

### New Zealand

New Zealand was the location for the next artificial turf seminar and this event was hosted by FIFA at North Harbour Stadium, Auckland with input from the IRB. The seminar covered both the IRB Player Welfare model and the FIFA Quality Concept for artificial turf. Presentations were given on the reasons for, and implications of, maintenance. There were also practical maintenance sessions provided by experts in both natural and artificial turf.

## EXHIBITIONS

### FSB 2011

FSB is the International Trade Fair for Amenity Areas, Sports and Pool Facilities which provides a platform for sports federations, key decision makers, construction companies, architects, local authorities and many more to network and exhibit their products. The IRB will be exhibiting at the 2011 FSB Exhibition in Cologne, Germany on Oct 26-28.

### Rugby Expo 2011

This year's Rugby Expo will take place on November 23-24 at Twickenham Stadium. The event will cover technical, training, coaching and commercial topics through a series of workshops and plenary sessions, with exhibition spaces for those wishing to raise their product and brand profile. Day one will focus on the elite Game and day two will focus on the community level Game and development of global Rugby. This agenda will ensure that delegates present will be able to attend the sessions which are most pertinent to their needs and provide an opportunity for discussion and education. Artificial turf workshops will be hosted over both days.

### Turf and Grass Expo 2012

The Turf and Grass Expo is an international sports convention focusing both on natural and artificial turf. This event includes a conference and exhibition and will take place on December 12-13, 2012 at the RAI

Convention Centre, Amsterdam. The Expo is being held as part of the Amsterdam 2012 Event which features six conferences running concurrently. These include the Panstadia Expo, Sports Facilities Expo, Football Development Expo, Playground and Landscape Expo and Sports Technology Expo. Some of the many organisations who have confirmed attendance at the 2012 event are:

**IRB**  
**FIFA**  
**UEFA**  
**FIH**  
**R&A**

## IRB ACCREDITED TEST INSTITUTES

In addition to field testing, the University of Ghent now hold laboratory testing accreditation and Labosport Italy are another of the Labosport family to gain accreditation. September 26-29, 2011 saw the Round Robin qualification process for existing and new Test Institutes in Bergamo, Italy with the accreditation of more staff from the current Accredited Test Institutes.

During the year SGS Intron also became an IRB Accredited Test Institute and is qualified to carry out field testing according to IRB Regulation 22. The following is a list of the current IRB Accredited Test Institutes:

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**Acousto-Scan Pty Ltd \***

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**ISA Sport**

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**Labosport**

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**SGS Intron\***

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**Sportslabs Ltd**

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**University of Ghent**

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\* Test Institute is eligible to perform field tests only

## IRB CONTACT:

Member Unions are asked to contact Leanne Walsh on [leanne.walsh@irb.com](mailto:leanne.walsh@irb.com) with any queries relating to Artificial Turf.

For further information on how to become an IRB Preferred Turf Producer or an Accredited Test Institute please email Leanne Walsh on [leanne.walsh@irb.com](mailto:leanne.walsh@irb.com)

For all the latest documents visit the IRB Player Welfare website: [www.irbplayerwelfare.com](http://www.irbplayerwelfare.com)