

Completed worksheet: Examples of possible comments for each activity

Maintenance activity	What it does
1. Aerating / forking:	To make holes in the soil, allowing more air into the soil.
2. Applying fertiliser / biostimulants / soil conditioners / wetting agents:	To provide food and supplements for the grass plant to improve its health; To add soil conditioners and wetting agents for improving soil growing conditions.
3. Applying grass seed:	To add grass seed to the pitch, to increase the desirable grasses.
4. Applying pesticides and other plant protection type chemicals:	To put chemicals onto the pitch to reduce and control undesirable organisms.
5. Applying top-dressing (including working it in):	To add sand / sandy material to the pitch to improve surface evenness.
6. Chain harrowing (smooth side down):	To stripe a pitch or disperse earthworm casts, to improve pitch presentation.
7. Chain harrowing, with tines facing down:	To cultivate the surface at renovation time, especially when using heavier tines, or to act as light form of raking when using shallower / lighter tines. This is especially useful when used in combination with a sweeper or vacuum machine.
8. Decompaction:	To shatter the soil profile, improving soil drainage. This is a form of deep aeration.
9. Drag brushing:	To lightly brush the pitch, to encourage grass development.
10. Line marking:	To mark out the pitch to clearly see the pitch layout.
11. Mowing:	To cut the grass sward to keep it tidy and at a suitable height.
12. Pitch (pre-match) safety check:	To walk the pitch to ensure it is safe to play on.
13. Post-match repairs:	To repair damage after a game, to maintain desired quality for as long as possible.
14. Raking / Scarifying:	To scratch the surface or cut into the surface layer to remove unwanted build-up of organic matter (termed thatch).
15. Rolling / Firming:	To firm the pitch, to ensure good root to soil contact is produced.
16. Sweeping / Vacuuming:	To remove debris, for example tree leaves, or arisings from scarification activities, from the pitch. This will produce a tidier, well presented surface.
17. Verticutting:	To scratch and cut through, in a vertical direction, the grass blades and trailing weeds, so as to reduce weeds and side-ways growth and encourage upright growth. This activity doesn't cut into the soil or thatch (unlike scarification).
18. Watering / Irrigation:	To put water onto the pitch, helping to maintain growth and development.
19. Surface removal:	This can be considered a heavy-duty approach to pitch renovation where the vegetation surface, organic layer and any contaminated surface soil layer might be significantly or totally removed. The extent of the surface removal will vary depending on machinery, blades and settings used.