

The Performance Quality Standard Tables – Rugby Union

Structural Quality

Performance Standard	Method of Test	Quality Standard		
		High	Standard	Basic
A. Herbage				
i) Length of herbage: during the growing season	1	25 mm - 50 mm	25 mm - 65 mm	25 mm - 65 mm
during the non-growing season	1	25 mm - 65 mm	25 mm - 75 mm	25 mm - 75 mm
ii) Bare area.	3	≤ 20%	≤ 25%	≤ 30%
iii) Total ground cover	3	≥ 80%	≥ 75%	≥ 70%
iv) Desirable grass species	3	≥ 75%	≥ 60%	≥ 50%
v) <i>Poa annua</i>	3	≤ 10%	≤ 20%	≤ 30%
vi) Other undesirable grass species	3	Nil	≤ 10%	≤ 20%
vii) Weeds - Large-leaved	3	Nil	≤ 5%	≤ 10%
viii) Weeds - Small-leaved	3	≤ 2%	≤ 10%	≤ 15%
ix) Moss	3	Nil	Nil	≤ 2%
x) Algae and Lichen	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
B. Pests and Diseases				
i) Diseases	3	Nil	≤ 2%	≤ 2%
ii) Earthworms	3	≤ 3%	≤ 8%	≤ 10%
iii) Pests	3	Nil	≤ 1%	≤ 2%
C. Profile				
i) Root depth	4	≥ 150 mm	≥ 100 mm	≥ 75 mm
ii) Thatch depth	4	≤ 5 mm	≤ 10 mm	≤ 15 mm
iii) Rootzone medium	4	≥ 200 mm	≥ 150 mm	≥ 100 mm
iv) Rootzone silt & clay content	14	≤ 6%	≤ 17%	≤ 25%
v) Infiltration rate	5	≥ 10 mm h ⁻¹	≥ 5 mm h ⁻¹	≥ 2 mm h ⁻¹
vi) Evenness: 2m straight edge 0.5m straight edge	2	± 15 mm ± 8 mm	± 18 mm ± 10 mm	± 25 mm ± 12 mm
vii) Soil pH	15	6.0 - 7.0	5.8 - 7.5	5.8 - 7.5
viii) Soil nutrient level : P ₂ O ₅	11	Index 2	Index 2	Index 2
ix) Soil nutrient level: K ₂ O	12	Index 2	Index 2	Index 2

x) Gradient: Length ways Across the pitch	16	> 1:200 1:150 - 1:100	1:200 - 1:100 1:100 - 1:80	1:100 - 1:80 1:80 - 1:50
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Presentational Quality

Performance Standard	Method of Test	Quality Standard		
		High	Standard	Basic
i) Appearance	Visual	100% uniform texture	Min. 90% uniform texture	Min. 70% uniform texture
ii) Goal posts	13	(a) Uprights are to be at right angles to the surface of the pitch (taking into account the gradient of the pitch). (b) Crossbars are to be at right angles to the uprights.		
iii) Pitch line markings	Visual	Visible from a min. 60 m	Visible from a min. 45 m	Visible from a min. 30 m
iv) Surface debris	Visual	Nil	Nil	Nil
v) Sward colour	Visual	100% uniform	90% uniform	70% uniform

Playing Quality

Performance Standard	Method of Test	Quality Standard		
		High	Standard	Basic
i) Hardness	10	65g – 120g	55g - 160g	40g - 180g
ii) Traction	9	≥ 45 Nm	≥ 40 Nm	≥ 30 Nm
iii) Vertical ball bounce	7	25% - 45%	25% - 50%	15% - 55%