

Pitch shares

We are providing this guide to explain an often misunderstood concept. For many clubs, one of the biggest challenges is availability of pitches on match days. Where several teams have to share the same pitch, the more the fixtures secretaries of the various leagues know, the easier it is to avoid too many pitch clashes (and the need to rearrange kick off times and even venues). But the fact that several teams play on the same pitch does not automatically mean there is a pitch share arrangement (as understood by league fixtures secretaries).

A pitch share arrangement is where two teams share the same pitch and the same kick off time. By disclosing this, the fixtures secretaries (with the aid of a 12 team grid system which is just slightly less complicated than an enigma encoding machine) are able to ensure that the two teams are never scheduled to play at home on the same date.

There are a couple of simple rules to remember when deciding on pitch share:

- Decide which two teams (a team can't "pitch share" with more than one other team) are going to enter into the arrangement and what will be their default kick off time);
- Wherever possible, try to pitch share with another team in the same league (NB. not necessarily the same age group). It is much easier for a league fixture secretary to manage things when they have control of both teams' fixtures.

Example

A club has one 11v11 pitch and there are six teams that need to play there. With kick off times of 10:30, 12:30 and 14:00, the pitch will be at full capacity every week. The teams are as follows:

- U13 (LDSJL)
- U14 (LDSJL)
- U15 girls (LW&GFL); the manager is also connected to U18 girls and where possible would like home games for both on the same day
- U16 girls (LW&GFL)
- U16 (LYL)
- U18 girls (LW&GFL); as above, the manager is also connected to U15 girls and where possible would like home games for both on the same day

Clearly, the two LDSJL teams can pitch share (eg. with a 10:30 ko). Likewise, two of the three girls' teams (eg. U15 girls and U16 girls at 12:30 ko). The remaining girls' team (U18) can pitch share with the U16 (LYL) (eg. 14:00).

When completing your application, for both U15 girls and U18 girls in the "Pitch sharing" section (see below), explain that you would like home games to be on the same date wherever possible.

Pitch Sharing :

You can let us know if you have pitch share arrangements with another team in this or another league. If you have a choice, it is always preferable to organise a pitch share with a team in the same league (i.e here the LWGFL). Please read the help sheet on pitch shares (above in documents).

League Detail :

League name of team sharing pitch with

Preferred KO :

For each team you must enter a default kickoff time. This can be anything from 9:30am to 2pm. The default kick off time is what will be assigned to all home games for this team. The time for a specific match can be changed by notifying the league fixtures secretary with 2 weeks notice or, if closer to the date of the match, with agreement of both team managers (but please still notify the league fixtures secretary).

The final piece of the jigsaw doesn't need to concern you but, pre-season, the league fixture secretaries (in this case LW&GFL and LYL) compare notes and assign pitch share numbers to make all the above work.