

20221064 - Ebbsfleet United FC, DA11 9GN –

Sport England 26 September 2023

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the additional information submitted by the applicant in response to previous comments made.

Sport England's position remains unchanged, and I have attached our previous comments with recommended conditions if the Local Planning Authority is minded to approve the application.

Recommended conditions 3 and 4 would only be relevant and necessary to avoid an objection from Sport England, in the event of a 3G pitch surface being provided in place of the existing natural turf pitch. In terms of wider community use for sport, the stadium pitch will only be of use if a 3G surface is installed since a natural turf surface would only support the existing use of the pitch by the men and women's team and perhaps some junior team matches. The additional information doesn't clarify the nature of the proposed surface, but it appears probable that the new pitch would also be natural turf. There are clear reasons why the club might wish to retain natural turf as that would eventually be required if they are successful in rising through the football divisions to meet ground grading requirements.

Sport England would object to the application should conditions 1 and 2 not be imposed as the development would not meet any of the exceptions to our playing field policy or paragraph 99 of the NPPF.