

From: Owen Neal <Owen.Neal@sportengland.org>
Sent: 28 April 2026 16:53:14 UTC+01:00
To: "Planning" <planning@horsham.gov.uk>
Subject: LA APP REF: DC/26/0568 - SITE ADDRESS: Nuthurst Cricket Club Pavilion Golding Lane Mannings Heath West Sus... RH13 6JX - SE REF: PA/26/SE/HO/73738
Categories: Consultations

Dear Meg (Bayliss),

Town & Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015

Sport England – Statutory consultee role and policy

We understand that you have consulted us as a statutory consultee in line with the above Order. Therefore, we have considered the application in light of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), in particular paragraph 104, and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy, which is presented within our 'Playing Fields Policy and Guidance Document':

www.sportengland.org/playingfieldspolicy

Sport England's policy is to oppose the granting of planning permission for any development which would lead to the loss of, or prejudice the use of:

- all or any part of a playing field, or
- land which has been used as a playing field land remains undeveloped, or
- land allocated for use as a playing field

unless, in the judgement of Sport England the development as a whole meets with one or more of five specific exceptions. A summary of the exceptions is provided in the annex to this response.

The Proposal and its Impact on the playing field

The application is for a variation of condition no.1 of a previously approved proposal (planning permission ref: DC/25/0740 - proposed new base for an AstroTurf surface) to amend the siting of the AstroTurf surface. Sport England notes that the relocation of the facility is to ensure that the integrity of the tree root protection zone is maintained.

Sport England has consulted the ECB as the national governing body for cricket and we have received the following comments.

The ECB comments that the proposed relocation of the practice facility appears to be beyond the natural boundary. However, the ECB considers that this is not a design that is ECB-approved, and is also a long way outside of the limits for good orientation. In summary, the ECB does not consider the proposal is consistent with good practice. Given that the ground is so small, the ECB considers that there is not an obvious appropriate location for a standalone practice facility. In normal circumstances, the ECB recommends a non-turf pitch on or next to the square with roll-on cage in such circumstances.

Assessment against Sport England's Playing Fields Policy and NPPF

Sport England considers that the relevant exception in this case is E2. This states:

- *The proposed development is for ancillary facilities supporting the principal use of the site as a playing field, and does not affect the quantity or quality of playing pitches or otherwise adversely affect their use.*

Sport England is satisfied that the application does not affect the quantity or quality of playing pitches or otherwise adversely affect their use in accordance with the above E2 exception. However, the specification and orientation of the facility does not comply with ECB technical design guidance, and therefore there are concerns about the design and layout.

Overall, Sport England does not wish to object to the proposal and we consider it is broadly capable of meeting the E2 exception in our playing fields policy.

Please note that this response relates to Sport England's planning function only. It is not associated with our funding role or any grant application/award that may relate to the site.

If you would like any further information or advice, please contact the undersigned.
Yours sincerely,

Owen Neal (MRTPI)

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'Sport England was recognised for its work in leading the sport sector to promote environmental sustainability and net zero, through both its Every Move strategy and innovative campaigns and advocacy



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Statement is published on our [website](#), and our Data Protection Officer can be contacted by emailing [Gail Walters](#)

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