



Sport England's Playing Fields Policy - 'A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England'

Policy Exception E2:

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

Typical types of development that may meet with this exception include pavilions, changing rooms and sportslighting which improve the sporting usage of the site.

When assessing an application against this policy exception Sport England is likely to require information which helps to answer the following questions:

- Is the ancillary development of an appropriate scale in relation to the main sporting use of the site?
- Is the proposed development appropriately located on the site in respect of the facility/land it is ancillary to and the sporting users of the site?
- Will the proposed development adversely affect the use of any existing playing field land including the number of pitches, the maintenance of adequate safety margins and/or the ability to rotate and move the pitches around to overcome wear and tear?
- If the existing playing field land will be adversely affected has it been demonstrated that this has been kept to a minimum and why this location has been chosen from a selection of alternatives?
- Does the ancillary provision meet with Sport England's and the relevant sports national governing body design guidance?
- Does the proposed development help to meet an identified sporting need i.e. as set out in a Playing Pitch/Sports Facility Strategy or wider open space strategy?
- Does the proposed development meet with the plans and strategies of the relevant sports national governing bodies and have their support?
- Is the proposed ancillary development supported by the existing, and any potential future, sporting users of the site e.g. local sports clubs?
- Will the proposed ancillary development enhance the community use of sporting provision on the site and its sports development potential?

Particular attention will be given to the precise nature and scale of the proposed development. For example, if a large community health and fitness suite is proposed alongside new changing rooms for outdoor sport the health and fitness component would not meet with this exception as it is not ancillary to the principal use of the site as a playing field. The health and fitness component would need to be assessed against other specific exceptions to the policy.

For further information on Sport England's role in assessing and commenting on planning applications please visit:

www.sportengland.org/planningapplications