

New Mills, Church Lane

Review of the existing Artificial Turf area at New Mills FC

Purpose

To provide a report on the safety or otherwise of the current Astro turf tennis court being used for 5 aside football (and other potential uses).

Findings

I visited site on Tuesday 24th January arriving at noon.

Upon arrival the ground staff were preparing the adjoining first team grass Football pitch for a match that evening between New Mills and Stafford.

I was able to inspect the from outside the fence as access was not available.

I attach images taken from the perimeter of the Artificial surface.

Background

The surface is formed using a version of Artificial Turf known as Astro Turf Second Generation (2G).

When it was initially laid as a tennis court it would have been laid on a sand base surface to provide a 'hard' surface conducive for tennis. There is evidence that a 'rubber/tyre crumb' may have been used. This is the likely cause for the black patches noted in the images.

The hard surface, beneficial for tennis, is recognised as a hazard if football is played on the surface. The specific hazard is the density of the surface causing injury.

All artificial turf is made with toxic PFAS compounds.

There are variants in manufacture and some laid over 'tyre crumb' can contain heavy metals, benzene, VOC's and other carcinogens that,, over time, can present a health threat.

The 'Re-Bound fence is timber and badly deteriorated. Impact against this would cause splinter/cut injury

Conclusion

Due to the density of the surface, the breakdown of the surface, the possibility the breakdown allows tyre crumb to 'lie' on the surface, the area is not suitable for use as a football pitch or a hockey pitch.

The timber Re-Bound fence is a significant hazard in its present state.

Photographs













David G Ward

Director

SkW Construction Consultancy;

Health and Safety Consultants; Principal Designers; CDM Advisors

30th January 2023