

# Facilities for Players and Officials

## Introduction

**This Data Sheet has been produced for clubs and their appointed consultants intending to submit an application to the FSIF for the improvement or development of facilities for players and officials. Reference should also be made to Data Sheet 1 'Planning an Improvement Project'. The FA National Grading Criteria has yet to be adopted (at the time that this Data Sheet was published) therefore Clubs should seek conformation from their league and from the FA standards and criteria for changing rooms and other ground grading facility issues.**

### STAGE 1

#### Project Brief

The production of a client brief is an important and necessary step. It is recommended that your project steering group, prior to the appointment of a professional team, gathers together as much information as they can about the existing buildings, facilities and your initial brief. Many clubs have restricted sites and land holdings and the need to investigate constraints and opportunities at your particular site will greatly influence and dictate what can be done. Your development may be within the designated stadium area or outside attached to an existing or new clubhouse that serves other pitches. Information that will be helpful to your professional team should include:

- site plan that shows the extent and scope of your land ownership, legal agreements, covenants, way leaves and rights of way
- existing buildings, main services and any knowledge of ground conditions and site factors
- existing and future programmes of use including male and female use
- access and parking arrangements
- details of any initial consultations with the Local Planning Authority and FA
- FA League standards and requirements for players and officials
- details and briefing information on other proposed facilities if they are to be included in your development and application to the FSIF.

### STAGE 2

#### Appointing Consultants

The selection and appointment of your professional team is an important process and Data Sheet 1 'Planning an Improvement Project' covers this in some detail.

### STAGE 3

It is fully recognised by the FSIF that each site will have specific factors and considerations. Your feasibility study is a crucial and necessary process and will help and guide your club in making informed decisions and a well considered application.

#### Site and Buildings

- access, parking and emergency vehicle access
- site boundaries and adjoining owners
- topography (levels, trees and special features)
- existing mains services, loading and capacity
- geo-technical investigation (ground conditions)
- existing buildings and facilities including condition surveys if upgrading and improving existing facilities is an option to be investigated
- safety and security.



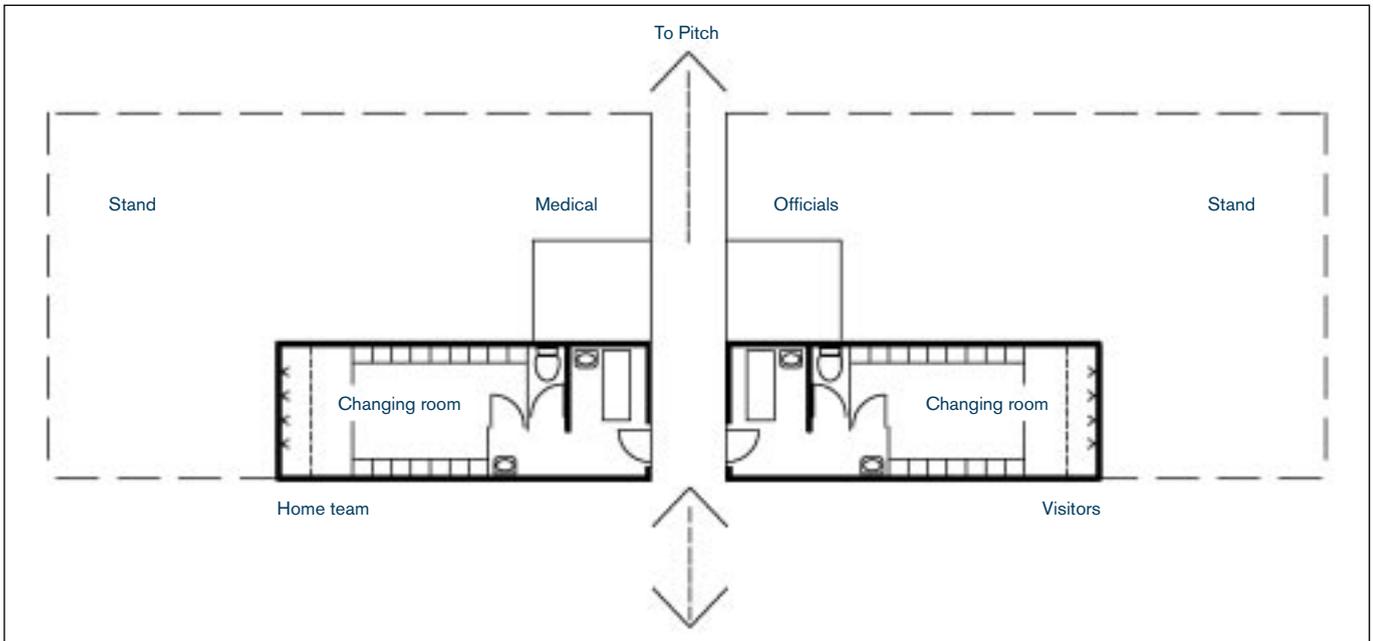


Diagram 1: Dressing rooms in the stand undercroft (within designated stadium area)

**Development of project brief**

Your appointed consultants will develop your initial project brief, site and buildings information into an architectural brief and schedule of accommodation with room sizes and space standards. This process will also enable a footprinting and options appraisal to be carried out and if applicable, how these facilities relate to existing or other parts of your development plans.

**Consultations**

The FSIF will accept applications that have yet to receive outline or full planning permission but consultations with your Local Planning Authority, however, should have been carried out in order to establish the extent and support that your proposals are likely to receive with any planning issues clearly identified.

**Locations**

Diagrams 1 and 2.

Whilst flexibility is recognised by the FSIF, key issues that must be considered include:

- league standard or higher level that club is aiming to achieve
- access to outside
- access between players changing facilities and parking, service road, access by ambulance to injured players to either the changing rooms or playing areas
- access to the pitch
- players and officials
- a protected and direct route between the changing room and pitch. The ideal access point for players and officials is at the centreline and on the same side as your main stand.

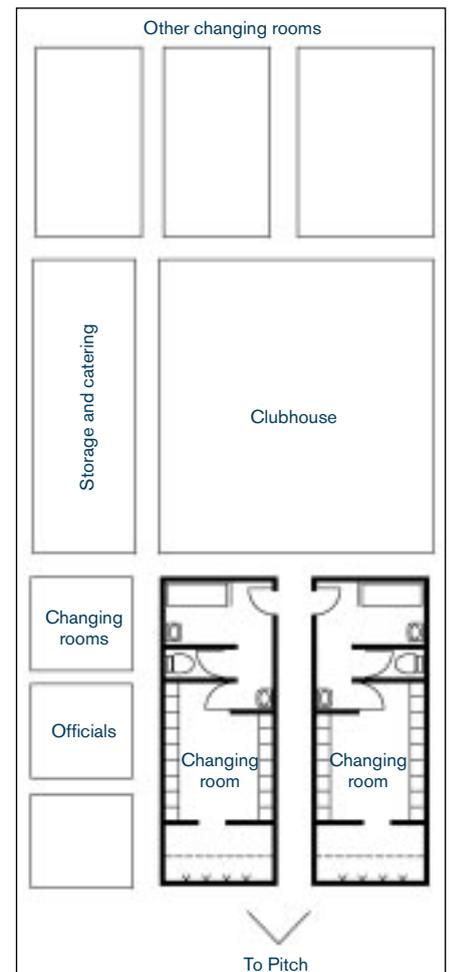


Diagram 2: Attached to a clubhouse (outside designated stadium area)

# Layouts

## Changing Rooms

Changing rooms should be a minimum of 18m<sup>2</sup> not including showers, drying area or toilets (see diagrams 3 and 4) and secure from unauthorized entry. However FA Ground Grading criteria may permit less than this at lower league levels. Recommended bench widths of 500 mm with hanging space and secure locker. Construction and specification should ensure that rooms are well lit and ventilated with robust and hardwearing finishes. Standards should ensure that all surfaces are capable of being washed down and that hot and cold water services and space heating is provided.

When designing the layout of changing rooms and shower areas you should consider whether there will be a need for privacy screens or cubicles. This may be a requirement for religious or other reasons. If privacy is an issue, the layouts and dimensions shown will need to be revised accordingly. If changing rooms are used by women footballers then 2 WC's and 2 washbasins should be provided. Each shower area should have at least 4 shower heads and at least one WC, one urinal and one handbasin in each room. There should be two match officials' rooms in order to accommodate male and female officials. Changing rooms should each be 5m<sup>2</sup> excluding showers, drying area and toilet.

## Massage Room

Diagram 3 shows a separate massage room located outside the players' changing room. Alternatively this could be provided in the players changing room subject to layout and space planning.

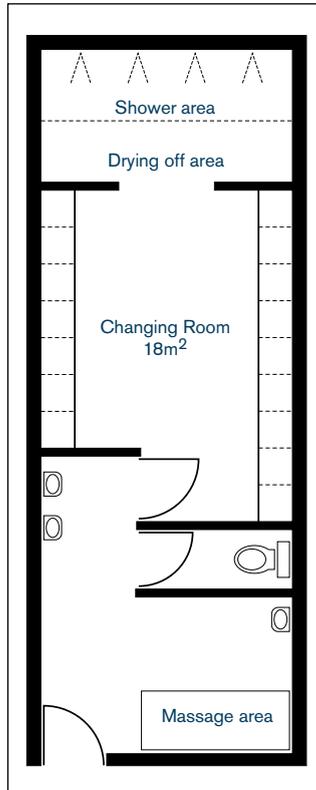


Diagram 3: Changing room with massage area

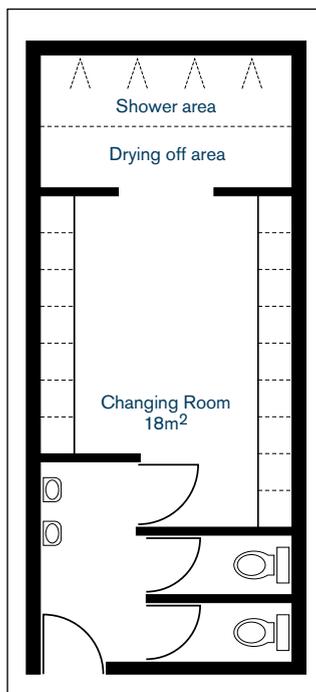


Diagram 4: Typical layout of changing area with female WC facilities.

## Medical Room

League requirements may include the provision of a properly equipped medical treatment room which is located within close reach of the players' changing rooms but which is not reached directly via either the home or away dressing rooms. The medical room should have provision for:

- one examination table
- stretcher for injured players
- wash hand basin
- cabinet for storing medications
- oxygen bottle.

Plus other equipment (e.g. scales, blood pressure gauge, heating apparatus) on the advice of the club's medical adviser. If there is no separate physiotherapy room, space and equipment will be needed for physiotherapy treatment.

## Capital Costs

The application requirement allows for estimates costs prepared by your professional team if competitive tenders have not been obtained in addition to the feasibility study and scheme drawings. Your submitted costs should include the following:

- performance standards and specifications
- room area schedules
- buildings and external works, services
- professional fees and statutory charges
- projected costs
- VAT
- exclusions
- procurement method
- outline programme with key dates and cash flow information.

## STAGE 4

### Application checklist

In addition to the completed forms your application should include:

- client brief and feasibility study
- performance standards and specifications (buildings and services)
- town planning consultations or permissions
- scheme drawings – plans, sections and elevations where appropriate
- site plan and layout showing stadium and whole site details
- professional estimates or competitively tendered costs with all other related costs and information identified under Capital Costs above
- programme/cash flow.

## Sources of reference

FA League Standards.

## FSIF Data Sheets in this Series

### 1 Planning an Improvement Project

Project brief  
Appointing professionals  
Scheme development  
Application details

### 2 Spectators

Circulation and movement  
Standing and seating provision  
Sightlines  
Safety and evacuation

### 3 Access and Provision for Disabled Spectators

Parking and access to stadium  
Circulation and movement  
Disabled viewing/sightlines  
Support facilities  
Safety and evacuation

### 4 Access Audit

Methodology and approach  
Key references

### 5 Services and Support Facilities

Public address/voice alarm  
Toilets  
Catering  
First aid  
Signage  
Control rooms, and press/media

### 6 Football Pitches/Floodlighting

Safety margins  
Pitch drainage  
Lighting levels  
Maintenance

### 7 Facilities for Players and Officials

Dressing rooms  
Provision for officials  
Medical room

### 8 Upgrading and Refurbishing

Condition surveys/site information  
Key issues

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The FSIF reserves the right to amend, add to or discontinue the advice contained in this Data Sheet.

**Should you have any queries on this Data Sheet, or anything on the wider work of the FSIF, please do not hesitate to contact us.**

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