

A key component of FIFA strategy

GrasPro Pitch Management System is currently being used by Fifa to collate data on over 100 pitches across the world as part of their new global pitch management strategy.



At any one-time Fifa is preparing for four World Cups from the main men's and women's tournaments through to the age group tournaments. Because of the sheer volume of pitches that need tracking a data collection system that was effective, easy to use and capable of generating reports was required.

Fifa's pitch management manager, Alan Ferguson, needed to simultaneously prepare for tournaments in Poland, France, Brazil, and Japan meaning he needed a remote system that could help ensure pitch quality.

The aim was for any of the Fifa pitch team to be able to log on from anywhere in the world and discuss the competition pitches with details and statistics in front of them. Alan also

wanted to engage with a neutral site that was not owned or backed by any machinery manufacturer or product supplier because they work with several different stadia and training grounds who have their own machinery deals in place, and GrasPro fulfils that requirement perfectly.

To date, the site has helped to monitor the Fifa U20 finals in Poland and the Women's World Cup in France. It is being prepared for the U17 finals in Brazil in October and the Olympic football tournament in Japan as well as the Club World Cup.

GrasPro has been working closely with Alan, who has spoken with senior data analysts to have very specific data reported from the site. He now knows how many hours any pitch is used and

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can better understand exactly how many pitches he needs to engage with to host tournaments at the various age levels. The data has also shown him how many staff he needs on each site and what takes up their time. This allows him and his team to work on more time-efficient ways to deliver the tournaments, which in turn leads to financial savings which can then be invested directly back into the game.

With GrasPro, simplicity is key. Users can track their daily activities such as mowing, fertilising, aeration and marking as well as pitch usage in a fast and convenient way. All registered activities are then summarised and visually presented with statistical reports available for N-P-K calculations,

water usage, playing hours and more.

Photographs and comments can be attached to work logs, so any out of the ordinary conditions, like grass disease, can be tracked visually as well as statistically. Sophisticated weather reports at three-hour intervals join all of this to give a full picture of how pitches are performing.

By using this information, users can generate visual reports that highlight how the usage of pitches and maintenance practices are impacting the turf. In turn, this allows groundsmen to collate information for budget projections and accurately forecast the amount of paint, fertiliser and staff-hours they need.

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