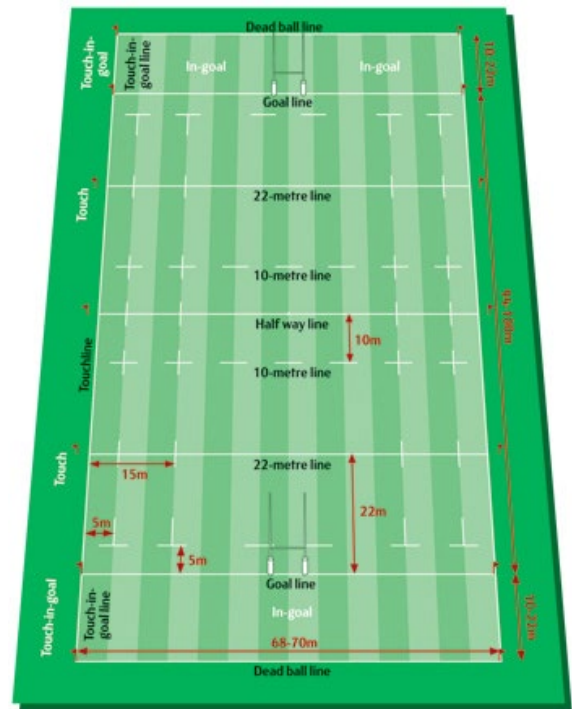


# ESSENTIAL GUIDE #3: PITCH

## THE BASICS

The only minimum pitch size stipulated by World Rugby is for International Rugby. For the rest of the game (unless stipulated by national unions or in competition specific regulations), the pitch dimensions are as follows (World Rugby Law 1):

- The field of play must not exceed 100 metres in length. Each in-goal must not exceed 22 metres in length. The playing area must not exceed 70 metres in width
- The length and breadth of the playing area are to be as near as possible to the dimensions indicated above. All pitches must be rectangular.
- The distance from the goal line to the dead ball line will preferably be no less than 10 metres with an absolute minimum of 6 metres.
- The perimeter area should be no less than 5 metres where practicable.



The Plan

## OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

If the maximum pitch dimensions outlined above cannot be accommodated, a common sense approach should be adopted by the site operator to identify what pitch dimensions are appropriate on a site by site basis. This common sense approach should consider both the player welfare issues of a reduced sized pitch and the competitive integrity of the matches to be played.

If a 5m pitch perimeter area is not considered 'practicable', a suitable reduced perimeter area can be identified via comprehensive and regular risk assessments carried out by a competent person. These risk assessments should consider the type, level and intensity of the rugby activity that will take place in combination with the physical environment beyond the pitch perimeter eg type of barrier, surface type, surface regularity and general safety hazards (eg floodlight masts).



## WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

A reduced pitch perimeter remains the responsibility of the site operator for all rugby activity. The RFU does not provide guidance on what reduced perimeter area may be appropriate due to the individual nuances of each and every site. We do have online guidance on how to carry out an appropriate risk assessment <http://www.englandrugby.com/governance/legal-and-admin/risk-assessments/>

## DON'T FORGET

If either team has objections about the ground or the way it is marked out they must tell the referee before the match starts. The referee will attempt to resolve the issues but must not start a match if any part of the ground is considered to be dangerous

## MORE INFORMATION

For more information on pitch dimensions, please contact RFU National Facilities Manager, Ted Mitchell on 07738 029212 or [tedmitchell@rfu.com](mailto:tedmitchell@rfu.com).