



**Non-Turf Pitch Systems  
Non First Class – Cricket Department  
2007**

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# Background

## Non Turf Pitch Systems

1. Been in the market place over 30 years
2. UK designed systems sold all over the world
3. Bulk of the initial research carried out 1975 to 1985
4. First Sports Council performance standard 1984
5. Further updates in 1987,1990,2000 and 2007
6. First NGB approval scheme introduced in 1993 and updated 2005
7. Currently there are 10 systems approved
8. Industry is currently circa £5.5m pa turnover



# Current Picture

ECB has the following documents on the website

ECB Guidance notes on the provision and installation of Non Turf Pitches

ECB Performance Standards for Non Turf Pitches

ECB Employers Requirements

ECB Approved System Supplier List



# Future Programme Investment

- 2008 ECB will introduce a Code of Practice for Designers and Installers
- Introduce security fencing, permanent and portable steel frame standards



# Non Turf Pitches

- Bound – laid on a structure that is bound together with a bonding agent such as Bitmac, concrete etc
- Unbound – surfaces are laid onto a structure that is not bound and is held together with interlocking particles and particle size distribution



# Performance

Research indicates designers can manipulate performance by adjusting the following:

- The surface
  - The underlay (s)
  - Upper supporting layers
  - Upper base formation
  - Lower base formation
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- It is known that the top 100mm has the most influence on playing performance. The ability of this zone to absorb moisture is the determining factor on how the pitch plays.

# Maintenance

- Is vital in sustaining performance
- Is often neglected
- Not correctly budgeted
- ECB has tightened company distributed information



## The Future

- Synthetic outfields
- Research into pace and spin
- Cheaper systems that can perform
- Can we truly get a system that replicates fine turf?
- Soil stabilisation agents

