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| Apprenticeship Title | Sports Turf Operative | | |
| Duration | Up to 24 months depending on prior experience | Level | 2 |
| Overview of the job role on completion of your apprenticeship | <p>This occupation exists to ensure that public and private sports facilities are available for use by the public and ensures facilities are available to support the Government policy of increasing physical activity.</p> <p>A Sports Turf Operative is responsible for the maintenance and renovation and overall appearance of one or more sports turf surfaces in accordance with the needs of the particular sport. It is their job to maintain an appropriate quality playing surface which reflects the carrying capacity of that surface to ensure that a sustainable playing surface is provided.</p> <p>The career as a Sports Turf Operative can be quite varied, potentially working across a wide range of different sports and venues, including athletics, bowls, cricket, croquet, football, hockey, horse racing, rugby league and union, tennis and ranging from general parks type sports surfaces up to first class stadia. Working in the outdoor environment is a healthy and therapeutic activity, which contributes to the well-being of employees as well as users of sports surfaces. With the vast range of natural or artificial turf pitches available, throughout the UK and world-wide, now is an excellent time to join this well-established and dynamic profession.</p> | | |
| Breakdown of what will be covered during your Apprenticeship | | | |
| Skills | Behaviours & Attitudes | | Knowledge |
| Maintain and renovate turf surfaces in a safe and appropriate way to ensure games can take place which provide for a fair, safe and exciting contest for players. This will include the safe use of a range of equipment and machinery, such as mowers, scarifiers, aerators and other specialist turf care equipment, covering hand tools, as well as pedestrian operated, ride-on and tractor mounted implements | <p>Safety Orientation. This occupation operates within an industry that has significant hazards and risks from the use of machinery and materials (such as pesticides). The potential for harm to self, others, wildlife and the environment is considerable. There needs to be a competent understanding of health and safety and implementation of these practices at all times.</p> | | Compliance with environmental and health and safety legislation and regulations |

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| Correctly calibrate equipment for material requirements and apply at the correct rates a range of materials, including grass seed, fertiliser and bulky top-dressing | Positive work ethic. Positive attitude, committed, motivated by providing an excellent customer service and getting the game on wherever possible. Able to adapt to a change in conditions, products, situations and working environments, is dependable, reliable, responsible and responsive to embracing social and cultural diversity and ethical in the treatment of others. Wants to stretch and drive their Continuous Professional Development. | Compliance with policies and procedures – company, client, health and safety risk assessments, rules of the game from the different Governing Bodies of Sport |
| Use integrated prevention and control methods to reduce the incidence of diseases, disorders, pests and weeds on turf | Quality focussed. Follows approved procedures and processes in a logical manner, paying attention to detail and applying approved checks throughout work activities to ensure work completed is fit for purpose. | The identification and correct application of materials, tools, equipment and machinery used in maintenance and renovation activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Set and mark out sports areas in accordance with the Laws of the Governing Bodies of Sport | Team Player. Able to work on own initiative but also able to interact and communicate effectively within a team applying a respectful professional manner. Able to listen and absorb information, to ask questions when instructions are not understood or unclear and to work within the limitations of the job role. | Identification and understanding of different grasses, soil types, weeds, pests, diseases, turf disorders, artificial surfacing material, underlays, infill material, turf and soil reinforcement material, line marking materials |
| Maintain tools, equipment and machinery used for maintenance and renovation activities to ensure their safe and effective use | Contribute to sustainability. Continuously strives to work efficiency and effectively to assist others in activities as appropriate to the job role. Aware of the financial, social and environmental impacts of their actions. | The principles of photosynthesis, respiration and transpiration in the growth and development of plants |
| Maintain and conduct basic routine servicing and repairs to drainage and irrigation systems | | The impact of weather, ground conditions and usage on pitch quality and playing quality |
| Effectively communicate with others and provide an excellent level of customer service | | The different Performance Quality Standards for a range of different sports turf surfaces |
| Work safely, efficiently and effectively at all times, whether under supervision, as an individual, or in a team | | How to minimise waste and reduce environmental impacts |

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APPRENTICESHIP STANDARD INFORMATION FOR LEARNERS

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| | | How to monitor, record and report basic grounds maintenance findings |
| Maths & English requirements | | |
| Apprentices will be required to have or achieve level 1 English and Maths Functional Skills and to have taken level 2 English and Maths tests prior to completion of their Apprenticeship. | | |
| Professional Recognition | This standard is recognised by the Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG), the Professional Body for Sports Turf Operatives and others working in the grounds care industry. Upon achievement of this standard the apprentice will be eligible to join the IOG register of Turf Management Professionals. | |
| Progression | On completion of the apprenticeship it should be possible to progress into a more managerial role or lead a team of grounds people. | |

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Process for completion of the Apprenticeship

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| On Programme | <p>Apprentice works & trains with Employer & Training provider to develop skills, knowledge and behaviours required to perform role effectively, prepare for End Point Assessment and to meet maths & English requirements to complete apprenticeship</p> | Gateway | <p>The employer and if appropriate in conjunction with the Training provider, will formally sign off that the apprentice has met the minimum requirements in regards to knowledge, skills & behaviours within the standard and confirm that they are ready to move on to the End Point Assessment. This will happen during a meeting involving the apprentice, their line manager and the trainer. (at about 18-20 months after start)</p> | End Point Assessment | <p>Synoptic assessment to be conducted by independent assessors. Will be in the form of a two part process and can be achieved at either Pass, Merit or Distinction.</p> <p>a) Underpinning knowledge 2 x tests(40%) b) Practical observation (60%)</p> |
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