

# Maintaining GAA Pitches: Mowing for Performance & Presentation

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# Why Mowing matters?

- Improves playing surface quality
- Ensures **player safety**
- Enhances ball movement & consistency
- Creates a professional appearance
- Control of weeds/vegetation



# Common Problems...

- Cutting more than one third of the leaf at a time
- Cutting in unfavourable conditions
- Blunt blades... frayed leaf & stress on the plant
- Not removing clippings (sand carpet construction)
- Mowing in same direction



# Types of mowers - Cylinder mower

- Why? - More precision, finer cut, presentation



- Note: regular maintenance required

# Rotary Mowers

- commonly used, easy to operate.
- Cleans debris
- Handles the ability to tackle longer grass



# Robotics Mowers

- Regular cutting (overall improved sward density)
- Saves time & labour
- Less compaction over the playing surface



# Mowing heights

- **30-50mm for GAA & Hurling**
- Consider usage/ time of year
- **When reducing height - one third rule**
- Liaise with teams/managers
- Contact manufacturer with any questions



Correct mowing height keeps the pitch healthy, strong, and suitable for high-quality play.



# Mowing frequency

- Mowing frequency will depend on weather, temperature, resources, fixtures, nutrient input, usage levels, & soil conditions.

**Note:** General rule of thumb...(no one year is the same)

Growing season - 2-5 times per week or as often as possible

Spring/ Autumn/ Winter - once/twice per week



# Top Tips

- Never remove more than 1/3rd of the leaf blade
- Change direction every time you cut
- Service mower at a quiet time of year
- Use trusted parts for repairs
- Find a H.O.C that suits your venue!!
- 10% of pitch construction cost on maintenance equipment.



# Quality surface vs poor surface



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Mowing for performance - mowing often can lead to a firmer surface.

- Clegg values increase (70-90 ideal ranges) - sand base/capped
- Consistency in ball roll
- Cleaner surface
- Denser sward
- Less stress on the turf



Thank you for your time

Any questions??

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