



**SPORTS TURF
OPERATIVE
APPRENTICESHIPS**

LEVEL 2
DURATION 18 MONTHS

JOB TITLES

Sports Turf Operative · Groundsperson · Grounds Maintenance Operative

ROLE PROFILE

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. 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. 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.

PROGRAMME DELIVERY

This programme will be delivered through a combination of practical hands-on and theory based activities which will be tailored to ensure the apprentice develops the necessary knowledge, skills and behaviours to become a professional sports turf operative and an effective member of the organisation. With all apprenticeships there is a requirement to record 20% off-the-job activities and this will be achieved through the use of a dedicated electronic on-line portfolio which the apprentice, the employer and the college delivery team will all have access to. The apprentice will be assigned a dedicated Assessor Trainer, who will undertake regular workplace progress reviews with both the apprentice and an assigned workplace mentor, as well as supporting all aspects of the apprentices ongoing development. This approach enables effective progress monitoring and target setting to be established from day 1, ensuring the employer and apprentice are clear about all aspects of the apprenticeship programme and what part they each play in ensuring the apprentice continues to make the expected levels of progress. Furthermore, this approach ensures any additional support requirements or interventions can be implemented in a timely manner as required. A BCA Virtual Learning Environment ensures all learning, development and support material can be easily accessed, further supporting the blended learning and development approach adopted by BCA for all its apprenticeship delivery. This ensures flexible and responsive training at all times, through a combination of online and face-to-face activities delivered by industry experts, using our high quality, industry-recognised resources and equipment. The apprentice will be required to undertake and pass an independent End Point Assessment upon successful completion of their apprenticeship, after which point they will be awarded their Apprenticeship Certificate.

PROFESSIONAL ELEMENTS

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.

EXAMPLE BEHAVIOURS CONTENT

- Safety orientation
- Positive work ethic
- Quality focused
- Team player
- Contributor to sustainability

STUDENT PROGRESSION

Progression could be to supervisory roles.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Entry requirements will be determined by individual employers but typically potential apprentices will have English & maths GCSE at Grades A-C (4-9) or other equivalent vocational qualifications. Employers, who recruit apprentices without the above levels of qualifications, will have to ensure they achieve Level 1 in English and maths as part of their Apprenticeship.

EXAMPLE SKILLS CONTENT

- 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
- Correctly calibrate equipment for material requirements and apply at the correct rates a range of materials, including grass seed, fertiliser and bulky top-dressing
- Use integrated prevention and control methods to reduce the incidence of diseases, disorders, pests and weeds on turf
- Set and mark out sports areas in accordance with the Laws of the Governing Bodies of Sport
- Maintain tools, equipment and machinery used for maintenance and renovation activities to ensure their safe and effective use
- Maintain and conduct basic routine servicing and repairs to drainage and irrigation systems
- Effectively communicate with others and provide an excellent level of customer service
- Work safely, efficiently and effectively at all times, whether under supervision, as an individual, or in a team

EXAMPLE KNOWLEDGE CONTENT

- Compliance with environmental and health and safety legislation and regulations
- Compliance with policies and procedures – company, client, health and safety risk assessments, rules of the game from the different Governing Bodies of Sport
- The identification and correct application of materials, tools, equipment and machinery used in maintenance and renovation activities
- 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
- The principles of photosynthesis, respiration and transpiration in the growth and development of plants
- The impact of weather, ground conditions and usage on pitch quality and playing quality
- The different Performance Quality Standards for a range of different sports turf surfaces
- How to minimise waste and reduce environmental impacts
- How to monitor, record and report basic grounds maintenance findings

