



Ten Cate Thiolon® Product Advisory

Artificial turf in Wintertime

Always available, but not always playable

One of the advantages of artificial turf is that it is unaffected by weather conditions and that it is resistant to almost every climatic condition. As artificial turf does not need time to recover after training sessions and matches it offers great possibilities. Just think of having a constant playing surface available year round! Especially in regions where snow, frost and ice can limit the playing hours of natural turf to just a couple of months. Melting snow and ice will turn natural grass pitches into dirt tracks leaving a devastated field after a training session.

There are however a few tips and tricks that should be taken into account.

Polypropylene fibres

Polypropylene (PP) fibres are not recommended for rubber-infill pitches nor for use at low temperatures. As a guideline we could say that a minimum temperature of the fibres of 0°C (32°F) is required. This is a safe distance from the glass/rubber transition temperature (-15°C / 5°F for PP) where the fibres changes from flexible ("rubber-like") to brittle ("glass-like").

TIP: Polypropylene pitches are never to be used nor cleaned at temperatures below 0 °C (32 °F).



Picture courtesy Bert Letteboer



Picture courtesy A-Turf

LSR® Lower Sliding Resistance® fibres

These are the fibre types recommended for rubber-infill pitches and suitable for use at low temperatures. During use a fibre temperature of -20°C (-4°F) or higher is acceptable. Here we also have a safe distance from the glass/rubber transition (around -100°C / -150°F for LSR®).

TIP: LSR® fibres are perfectly suitable for winter usage of soccer, hockey and tennis pitches for instance.

Guidelines for use

- When the pitch is covered by a layer of snow, the game is played on the snow rather than the carpet itself. The snow protects the carpet from damage. Note that this will cause the snow to be compacted making further removal difficult.
- If mechanical snow removal is required, take care that (a) the carpet is not damaged by the removal procedure and (b) the players are not injured by remaining frozen material between the fibres. If there is a reason for removing snow however, use a wooden - never metal! - scraper or a broom.
- The use of an under-pitch heating system, causes a higher temperature than ambient. Too high temperatures might cause harm to the pitch. Besides, the actual fibre temperature should be taken into account.
- Playing under thaw or glaze ice conditions may render the pitch very slippery causing dangers for the players!