



A 5 star winning Pitch Consultancy programme for the Greek Super League provided by Grassform.

The Greek Super League continue to use Grassform for the up and coming season of the Greek Super League. Grassform are exclusively powered and partners of ProPitch for testing and data analytics with pitch performance software.

"Overall quality raised by 37% within an eight-month period"

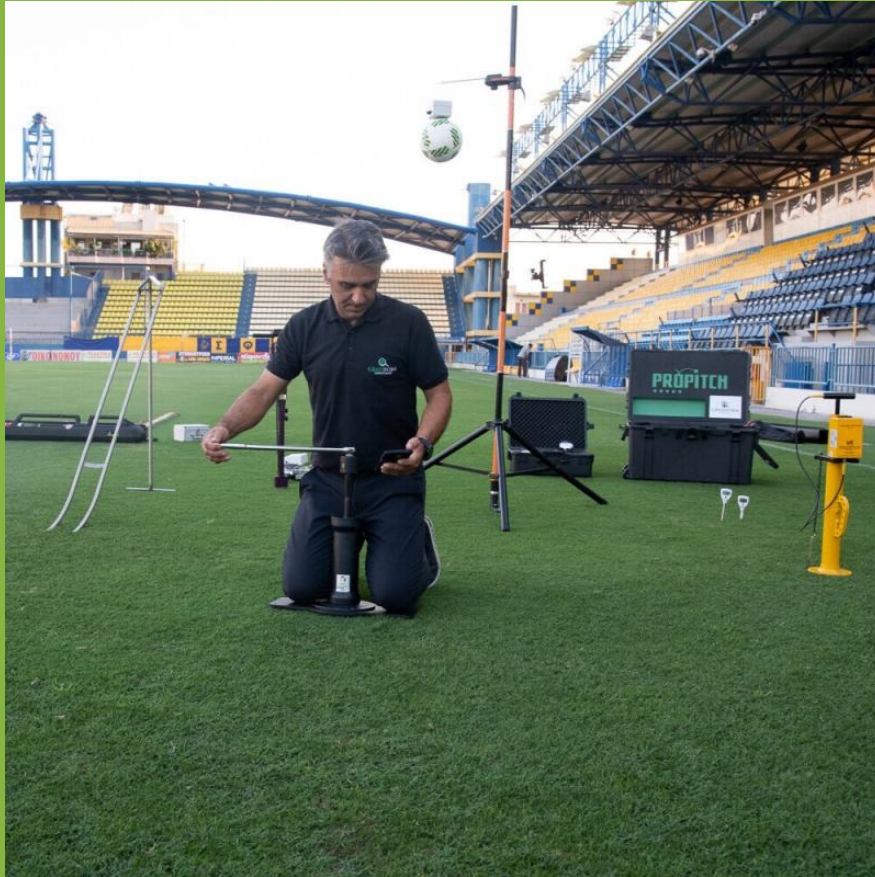
Read a case study on FC PAS Giannina ZOSIMADES STADIUM.



The Greek Super League Pitch Consultancy

Over the 2021/22 season, and renewed for 2022/23 season, Grassform are exclusively delivering pitch testing and analysis for the Greek Super League as consultants at each of the 14 stadiums to support ground staff deliver excellent pitches, the target a 5 star assessed ProPitch surface. Some of these pitches are exposed to

difficult climatic conditions and by using ProPitch testing tools and assessments on the automatic evaluation software, as used by UEFA, it allows SMART pitch management.



The ProPitch system after testing provides the metrics, coloured coded in a traffic light system, for playing, physical and turf quality through a series of tests at different pitch locations.



The decision of the Board of Super League Greece to initiate our cooperation with Grassform, in May 2021, was the result of a painstaking process.

Our aim at Super League Greece was to ensure that all Clubs would benefit from a highly professional company that could objectively and scientifically identify the issues the football pitches faced in an accurate way and suggest cost-effective and measurable solutions to the Clubs.

We are happy to confirm that the programme, which ran for the duration of the season was quite successful; we have witnessed the amelioration of the facilities, all of the Clubs followed the recommendations of Grassform and the end result was quite positive. Feedback we received from the Clubs and the football players was a further “vote of confidence” for our strategic partnership with Grassform.

The key element, which made all the difference for Super League Greece and Grassform, is the highly scientific and impartial measurements of all football pitches; there is no room for complacency, the process is a constant evaluation of several objective benchmarks and the outcome is again measured and visible.

We, at Super League Greece, following a decision of our Board in May 2022, will continue our cooperation with Grassform for the coming season too, setting high standards.

Mr. Georgios Borovilos
President, Super League Greece



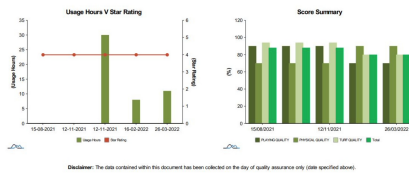
Grassform & ProPitch in Greece

Grassform is a partner of ProPitch, exclusively working together in Greece for natural and hybrid pitch testing and consultancy. We share the same vision on how to manage pitches and empower ground staff to do the same with data based decision making. Grassform value objective pitch testing data in high regard like ourselves supporting evidence based decision making. We aim to do this in the most transparent way, supported with quality systems like ISO 17025. Our Five star ProPitch rating system has been developed with international governing bodies for management of multiple venues through the season.

Antonis Gkrimotsis & Grassform

Antonis is a sports turf agronomist and the owner of Grassform Greece, a sports surface testing laboratory and consultancy specialised in performance quality assessments of natural, artificial, and hybrid football pitches. As the principal turf consultant with Super League Greece since April 2021, he developed and has been monitoring the turf quality management programme towards upgrading the Greek Super League pitches to the UEFA and FIFA latest standards.

Antonis the owner of Grassform Consultancy and Principal Turf Consultant at Super League Greece has a degree in Sportsturf Science and Management BSc (Hons), University of Central Lancashire, UK.



Super League Greece Pitch Improvement Plan 2021-2023; Continuous pitch assessment and monitoring



The ProPitch Light Weight Rotational Resistance apparatus simulating underfoot friction or grip a player may experience when changing direction or speed.

Testing & Analysis

1. 3 site visits to each pitch per year for testing (major assessments), followed by regular repeated visits for monitoring;
2. Pitch tests carried out with ISO-17025 accredited equipment including ProPitch kit;
3. Testing data recording and reporting including recommendations and action points through the ProPitch system for monitoring and rating pitch performance;
4. ProPitch assessment types: Natural UEFA and Hybrid UEFA Self-Assessment Tests;
5. Tested features of the playing surface: playing, physical, and turf quality
 Testing of construction quality and mechanical properties; playing quality (evenness, traction), physical quality (hardness, water infiltration, soil moisture)
 Turf quality: Determination of turf density, sward height and colour, root system depth, disease, weed and pest infestations.
 Chemical properties: Evaluation of chemical properties by soil analyses for balanced nutrition.
 Adjustment to climatic conditions: Constant review of weather conditions and risk assessment. Seed choice based on climatic conditions.

3,442 measurements were taken in the 6 pitch locations specified by UEFA and 52 laboratory soil analyses were performed during three complete assessments in the 2021/2022 playing season.

6. Rating

Pitch ranking scores derive by the assessments for each pitch. The assessment evaluates the overall level of playing surface stability maintained by the pitches throughout the playing season.

Support & Development

Tackling problems on the field - short and long term improvement planning - Reviewing progress

- a) Identifying and assessing problems under different circumstances of stress and weather conditions
 - b) Drawing up studies/specifications
 - c) Prioritised problem-solving strategy
- Immediate interventions
 - Improvement steps in adequate pitches
 - Problem-solving strategy in cases of long-standing construction defects
- d) Devising tailor-made routine maintenance programmes for existing surfaces or for pitches under large-scale reconstructions

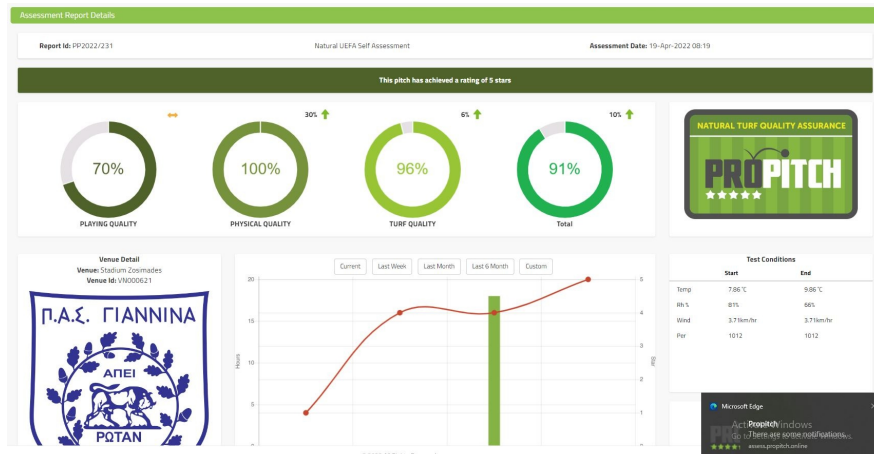
Measurable Results - Target Attainment

Overall quality raised by 37% within an eight-month period (May-December 2021), based on the star-rating progress of all pitches. 8 out of 14 pitch surfaces were upgraded by at least one star. 10 out of 14 pitches have significantly raised their quality, mainly in terms of infrastructure, after implementing our recommended interventions. 7 natural turf pitches underwent reconstruction of a high standard. All SL matches were held according to schedule. Infrastructure renovation, the use of new equipment and quality materials went hand in hand with an overall considerable enhancement of quality attributes.



The ball rebound test looks at the ball surface interaction and what the player might experience during a game. We use calibrated equipment and ball for repeatability.

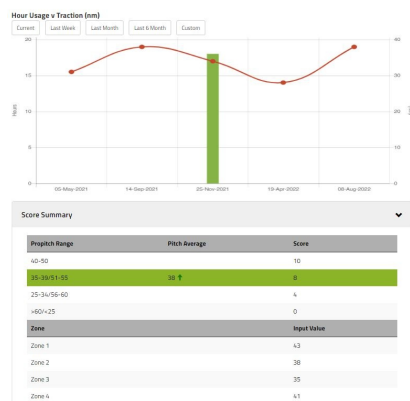
Case Study: FC PAS Giannina ZOSIMADES STADIUM 5 Star Rating Achieved



The Challenge

The surface playability of the Zosimades stadium has been debated at length in the Greek football community over the past few years. The prevalence of high rainfall levels and very low winter temperatures in the area, in combination with construction defects and an insufficient canopy, posed challenging conditions for matches played during winter seasons.

The need to resolve the problems that the specific stadium faced was acknowledged and given a high priority as soon as Super League Greece assigned the supervision of its pitches to Grassform. From the outset, Grassform employed the Propitch system to assess and monitor all home and training grounds of the 14 SL clubs.



Interactive Portal

All the results and reports are displayed on the portal that the league and club can access.

This is for each test and location and for all pitches assessed in the Greek Super League.

The Approach

After recording the microclimate conditions and patterns of shading at the Zosimades stadium during a several days visit to the site, our technical consultant Antonis Gkrimotsis drew up a recommended programme of interventions including the (a) construction of an up-to-date drainage system, (b) specifications of rootzone profile and selection of sand of suitable particle size, (c) selection of turfgrass variety, and (c) procurement of specialist maintenance equipment.

The FC administration endorsed the recommendations and acted promptly on implementing them: The project was undertaken by an external pitch contractor and was carried out according to the requirements, while regular pitch maintenance has been performed since by qualified staff hired for this purpose.

The outcome was a pitch that managed to cope with adverse weather conditions, among them at least two extreme precipitation events. Furthermore, the shaded areas were barely affected during one of the most prolonged and hardest winters in the country in recent years.

Beginning with a 1-star rating in the Propitch system, the pitch was raised to 4 and 5 stars, a score preserved throughout the playing season, while the players of all hosted clubs had nothing but the best to say about their playing experience on the pitch of the Zosimades Stadium.



The Future

With this project a database is now set up for the Greek Super League and Grassform to make the most informed and educated recommendations for pitch improvements across all 14 stadiums.

Since the start of the project ProPitch have added unique Match Day Assessments that can be carried out by local ground staff and a calendar function synchronised to that venue.

We hope to add player feedback, utilising the Sports Labs Pitch Rater, and correlate the test results to identify optimal playing conditions.

www.propitch.online

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ProPitch

1 Adam Square, EH54 9DE, Livingston

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