

FIFA Innovation Programme Project Summary

FIFA Innovation Challenge:	Sustainable artificial turf systems (see details below)
Project Title:	Installation and Testing of a Circular Turf Concept
Company/product:	RSI Sports Group
Supporting competition organiser:	Koninklijke Nederlandse Voetbalbond (KNVB)
Project period:	01/06/2025 to 30/11/2026
FIFA Innovation Challenge Details	
<i>Sustainable Artificial Turf Systems</i> FIFA is challenging the artificial turf industry to assess the life cycle of their turf systems and propose significant and impactful changes that will improve their environmental sustainability, whilst maintaining the performance levels currently stipulated within the FIFA Quality Programme.	
Executive Summary of the Innovation Project	
The RSI Circular Turf project attempts to address the end-of-life challenges of artificial turf systems by introducing innovative materials and construction techniques. At the core of this project is a newly developed artificial turf made entirely from PET monomers. This material is recyclable and can be reused in future artificial turf installations. In addition to the new turf material, the project also tackles the issue of existing polyethylene (PE) turf systems. These legacy materials will be repurposed into base construction panels, with the intention of using yarn from three decommissioned pitches to create the base of one new pitch (to be installed at a test site). This construction method aims to reduce the depth of the system's base construction to approximately 10 cm, which in turn lowers the carbon footprint associated with logistics and installation compared to conventional systems. Key sustainability and circularity benefits of the system include: • Closed-loop PET usage: The turf uses 100% recyclable PET yarn, enabling reuse in future turf systems. • Recycling of existing turf: Discarded artificial turf is reused in the construction of base panels. • Reduced construction depth: Less sand and stone required, leading to lower transport emissions. • Innovative infill materials: olivine for stabilisation, combined with organic infill materials (aligned with the various climate zones). This advanced system introduces several novel elements in both material composition and construction when compared to conventional, FIFA-certified turf systems. Once installed, it will undergo testing under the FIFA Quality Programme for Football Turf and additional evaluations to gather feedback from end-users.	
Results & additional documentation	
Updates will follow as applicable.	