



European Synthetic
Turf Organisation

ESTO SHOCKPADS WORKING GROUP: INFORMATION UPDATE IMPROVED PERFORMANCE WITH SHOCKPADS

In 2013 FIFA carried out the study (which was presented at the AMI conference in Barcelona): "An investigation into whether shock pads & elastic layers aid the longevity of football turf surfaces."

Examples of synthetic turf surfaces with and without shock pads have been tested for the range of dynamic properties. This has been done before and after incremental stages of conditioning on the "Lisport XL simulated wear machine" at Labosport. Two variations of conditioning have been used: with and without adequate sample maintenance.

The conclusions of this research project were:

- » When a football turf system is regularly and adequately maintained all systems (with and without shock pad) did retain an acceptable level of performance.
- » Within the range of tested samples we see that the systems containing a high quality shock pad were likely to show less deterioration than the system without a shock pad in cases where the maintenance was not done correctly.

The study has been done in dry lab conditions. The influence of weather conditions (rain) and environmental contamination by detritus were not simulated. The effects are considered likely to magnify the rate and severity of the deterioration. We can consider the situation will be worse in real life conditions.

Following this study the members of the working group do strongly advise that, when there is the smallest doubt the maintenance will not be done at the necessary level, a serious consideration has to be made to use a system with a quality shock pad and this to keep the performance at an acceptable level during the lifetime and to eliminate as much as possible safety risks (injuries). To be sure about the selection of the quality shock pad, we refer to "the Performance Guide for Shock pads" composed by the ESTO working group in 2013 (see www.theesto.com)

The working group and its' members are available to answer any question in respect of the quality of the shock pad needed to attain the best possible result.