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# ENGLAND ATHLETICS FLOODLIGHTING GUIDE Version 1.0

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Shining a light on athletics and running clubs







# More power to you

As the official lighting partner of England Athletics, we have produced this Floodlighting Assessment Guide to empower and assist facility managers across the country to assess your current lighting standards and actively take ownership of reviewing, managing, and upgrading your floodlighting facilities.

England Athletics as a priority, and as part of their on-going strategic facility improvement initiative, are striving to develop and improve standards. The importance of good facilities is imperative to the development of the sport at all levels as well as the on-going goal of increasing participation. This guide will provide you with:

- An introductory understanding of floodlighting standards relating to track and field athletics.
- Details of the basic equipment needed to analyse lighting levels.
- A step-by-step process to self-assess facility lighting levels.
- The next steps to improve their lighting, if needed.

This guide will not delve deeply into the technical details of floodlighting athletics tracks and all the technical parameters involved. Our focus is on supplying a simple guide to help you review your lighting solution. For detailed information on the technical complexities of lighting, email us at:

athletics@midstreamlighting.com







# Why did we put this guide together?

The guide has been created in partnership with England Athletics to provide you with the ability to understand your current floodlighting solution better. To evaluate the state of play, your current light levels, and easily self-assess the need for updates, improvements, or next steps in the facility's future goals.









# LIGHT UP **THE FIELD**

# Why should you care about the lighting levels on your athletics track and field?

There are many advantages of improved lighting around athletics, with some benefits focused on the elite facilities and others applicable to all levels. The key benefits however can be summarised as:

- Reduce your energy consumption.
- Cut maintenance costs.
- Greatly extend the hours of play for your facility.
- Improve safety and security.
- Achieve the necessary light levels for the facility to host televised sports events.
- Future proof your facility for years to come.
- Reduce light pollution.
- And finally, to provide appropriate and compliant lighting the levels of track and field athletics activity at your facilit

# Key lighting considerations when assessing lighting around your facility

Lighting installations for athletic grounds should have been designed to consider the following aspects of a lighting solution tailored for your specific facility:

	Levels of illuminance	How much light is on your track and
	Uniformity of illuminance	Is the light perfectly uniform across
	Contrast	Is the light consistent across the fie
	Glare control	Are participants, fans, and neighbo away from the field of play or direct
	Colour rendering	Is your light crisp and clear and are under the artificial lighting?
	Type of lighting mast	Are your masts fit for purpose and regulation inspection?
to	Number of lighting masts	Are there enough masts to achieve
<b>.</b>	Track only lighting or track and infield	Do you need track only lighting or l
	Compliance with statutory regulations	Does your lighting comply with record body standards?





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the colours clearly defined

would they pass a safety

the lighting levels needed?

ighting for track and field?

ognised safety and governing

# What regulation or guidance currently exists?

The table on page 11 is the official guidance provided by Sport England, in their Artificial Sports Lighting Guide. If using this digitally you can download their complete technical guide here

Please note: England Athletics adheres to these lighting levels as part of their Athletics Facilities improvement plans and this guide complies with all standards outlined.

# SPORT ENGLAND GUIDANCE

In considering lighting for athletics, events		
can b	e divided into two groups. These are:	requireme
	Those events which take place essentially at ground level – track events, horizontal jumps, and shot putt.	Proper lig group is a
	Those events which involve the space significantly above ground level – throwing events (except shot) and vertical jumps.	hammer a High jump outdoor tr
For ev	rents in the first group, it is sufficient	without p

to consider horizontal illuminance at ground level.

For events in the second group, the full volume within which the event takes place must be considered - for instance, the maximum height of the flight of the javelin or hammer and the maximum height of the pole vault bar.

The Table below gives a partial summary of the recommendations of the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), as published in the Track and Field Facilities Manual 2008 Edition. For televised events, different standards will apply.

	HORIZONTAL ILLUMINANCE			GLARE RATING	
LEVEL OF PLAY	Outdoor Athletics		COLOUR RENDERING INDEX		
	Average Lux levels (Eave)	Emin / Eave	(CRI)	(Grij	
INTERNATIONAL / PREMIER	500	0.7	≥ 80	≥ 50	
CLUB	200	0.7	≥ 65	≥ 50	
COMMUNITY	100	0.5	≥ 20	≥ 50	

NOTES

• Glare should be controlled by careful positioning of luminaries, e.g. over the pole vault area.

The vertical illuminance at the finishing line should be at least 1000 lux for photo finish equipment. • For outdoor tracks (community level of play), the level of horizontal illuminance can be reduced

to 50 lux for jogging (see Section 5.0 of CIBSE LG4, Stadia - large and small).

Summary of the recommendations of BS EN 12193 with additional notes on key design issues. 



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ases, the facility will be lit to a standard where the ts of both groups of events are met simultaneously.

ting of the full volume required for events in the second very important safety consideration. It is essential for the nd javelin and discus to be visible throughout their flight. ers and pole vaulters must be able to see the bar. For an ack that's not enclosed by a stadium, lighting this volume roducing overspill light and without creating glare for ervers may be very difficult. If for whatever reason, it is not practicable to light the entire volume for a given event, that event should not take place under lights.

# **IMPORTANT** ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS







## Number of measuring points

Measuring lighting levels across the track and field can be done quickly and easily, however:

- It is vital it is done correctly.
- And it must take place at night.

The Midstream Athletics Standards approach has been applied across the entire process. This means:

- There must be measuring points taken every 10 metres squared across the track and field - see the section below.
- The larger the facility the more measuring points needed.



on the equipment to use, email us at athletics@ midstreamlighting.com and we'll get straight back to you.

## The testing equipment you will need

An LED calibrated light meter. As with any electrical device, it's important you choose a reputable manufacturer's lux meter - typically with an f1' Value better than 3%. Special care should be taken to make sure the meter is suitable for LED applications, and that it's been calibrated within 12 months of use. It's also important to ensure that the correct scale is selected before you begin testing. If you'd like any help choosing a lux meter, or how to use it, just email:

athletics@midstreamlighting.com

- Measuring wheel or tape measure.
- Objects to be used as a marker e.g. sports cones.
- A 30cm square flat board or a self-levelling tripod if the reading can't be done flat on the ground.
- Pen to record your results at each point.
- Our photometric results sheet you'll find one at the end of the guide.



## Secure the area

When following the testing guidelines, it is important to clear the field of play and make sure nobody is using it. This will allow you to complete your tests in one go, without any risk of injury or obstruction.

# Light meter and measuring wheel

Calibrate and set to zero before every reading

The light meter must be calibrated, tested to zero, and set to the correct light source. The measuring wheel must be zeroed too.

# **Vertical readings**

We will not cover vertical readings in this guide as they are needed for very specific venues only.

Vertical readings are important for compliance to events that involve the space significantly above ground level e.g. throwing events (except shot putt) and vertical jumps. Proper lighting of the full volume needed for these events is a very important safety consideration. For an outdoor track that's not enclosed by a stadium, lighting this volume without producing overspill light, and creating glare for distant observers may be very difficult. These light readings should be taken by a professional team.

Please email us at athletics@midstreamlighting.com for an official, professional assessment by one of our qualified team.

Note: UK Athletics Unit 5 TrackMark floodlight inspections and subsequent accreditation must be carried out by independent floodlighting experts.

If you need any advice

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The following steps will take you through how to take the readings at a horizontal level, how to record them, and then review your results.

# STEP 1 \_\_\_\_\_

#### Equipment

Check all equipment is ready, calibrated, and in good working order in accordance with the equipment list above.

# STEP 2 \_\_\_\_\_

#### Secure the area

It's important to make sure no activity is taking part when you're taking your measurements, so they can be taken without any obstructions or possibly cause any injuries. You should also clear all objects from the field of play, such as any trees, shrubs, or branches that could obstruct lighting levels. Also, the testing must be completed in one go on the same night.

# STEP 3 \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Complete Section A**

Complete Section A of the assessment report, highlighted below, to the best of your knowledge. You can find copies of this at the end of this guide.

ATHLETICS ASSESSMENT REPORT - SECTION A		
Name of club/facility		
Address of club/facility		
Previous lighting installer if known		
Time you are taking the reading		
Weather conditions		
Number of masts/poles		
Approximate height of masts/poles		
Total number of floodlights		
Wattage of floodlight if known		
Numbers of lights not working		
Dimensions of track:		
Number of lanes:		
Infield in use – Yes/No. If 'Yes', for what sport:		

# STEP 4

#### Confirming what you need to measure

Depending on your facility, there are two step-by-step processes outlined below that need to be followed.

- If you have a full track and inside playing area, start at Step 5 below.
- If you just have a running track, start at Step 6, further down.
- Whatever your facility is, you'll need to complete Step 7.

# STEP 5 \_\_\_\_\_

#### Full track & inside playing area measurement

Confirm your measurement points 5.1

> Using the image below as reference you need to create your measuring grid across the running track and playing areas. As you can see, you need to split the facility into 10m by 10m points. The easiest way to do this is to treat your running track as a complete rectangle - in length and width - and place cones from one corner to the other. You only need to measure the points inside the running track and playing field.







Please note: The size of your facility will determine how many measurement points are needed.



With the measuring wheel or tape, set the first cone point at one corner and then build the grid on the track and field. Place one cone at each reading point until you have your cones set up as shown below.



#### Taking your readings: get your process ready 5.3

Now it's time to measure your actual illuminance levels. The assessment will cover two areas:

- Measurement of your lux levels.
- Your lighting uniformity.

Please note: To make things easy to follow we have provided two light reporting sheets for you to choose from.

A - Write the results on the result sheet layout diagram provided at the end of this guide, where the track and field have blank white areas to note down the numbers. It looks like this:



you can <u>click here</u> to download - it looks like this:

#### Illuminance Check



Once you are ready it is time to take the readings.



**B** – Fill in the results chart sheet provided at the end of this guide, or if utilising this document digitally

Time of Light Mete 13 14 15 16 17 Ei.des Recorded Illuminance Level #DIV/0! Lux Ei.ave = 0.0 Ei.min = 0.0 Lux #DIV/ n/Ave = Min/Max = #DIV/0! % Deviation #DIV/0 Survey Conducted By

ate of Visit

#### Take reading 1 5.4

Starting at A1, or your preferred corner of the area of play, place the lux meter receptor flat on the ground, on a board, or tripod. Leave the receptor in place for five seconds for the readings to stabilise and record the value. Take care to make sure the recorder, the cone, and any other shadows do not obstruct the lux meter receptor. These readings should be taken at no more than 30cm from the ground if they can't be taken on the ground itself. For best results, use an extended cable to the light meter so no shadows or physical blocks are affecting the lighting levels.

Record the number in Box 1 or on the chart.

#### Now take a reading at every grid point 5.5

For each of the grid points, you need to note down the lighting value (in lux) on the chart provided or on the chart document. Continue until every reading is taken and noted down.

You can now go to Step 7: Getting your results and understanding your reading.

# STEP 6 -

#### For running tracks only

Confirm your measurement points 6.1 Please note: The size of your track and the number of lanes will determine how many measurement points are needed.

> Using the image adjacent for reference you need to create your measuring grid across the running track. As you can see, you need to split the track by laying cones 10m apart around the track and three cones across the track. Regardless of the number of lanes these three cones should always be placed 0.5m from the edge of track, 0.5m from the the inside of the track and the final cone placed in the middle equidistant from the two cones, as shown in the adjacent example.



Placing your markers to create your measurement grid 6.2 around the track.

#### 6.3 Taking your readings - get your process ready

Now it's time to measure your actual illuminance levels. The assessment will cover two areas:

- Measurement of your lux levels.
- Your lighting uniformity.

Please note: To make things easy to follow we have provided two light reporting sheets - A and B.

A - Write the results on the result sheet layout diagram provided at the end of this guide, where the track has blank white areas to note down the numbers. It looks like this:



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With the measuring wheel or tape, set the first cone point starting 0.5m in from the edge of the track, do the same 0.5 from the inside of the track and then place a cone in the middle. Do the same 10m apart

B - Fill in the results chart sheet provided at the end of this guide, or if utilising this document digitally you

can <u>click here</u> to download – it looks like this:



Once you are ready its time to take the readings

#### Take reading 1 6.4

Starting at A1, or your preferred corner of the area of play, place the lux meter receptor flat on the ground, on a board, or tripod. Leave the receptor in place for five seconds for the readings to stabilise and record the value. Take care to make sure the recorder, the cone, and any other shadows do not obstruct the lux meter receptor. These readings should be taken at no more than 30cm from the ground if they can't be taken on the ground itself. For best results, use an extended cable to the light meter so no shadows or physical blocks are affecting the lighting levels.

Record the number in Box 1 or on the chart.

#### Now take a reading at every grid point 6.5

For each of the grid points, you need to note down the lighting value (in lux) on the chart provided or on the chart document. Continue until every reading is taken and noted down.

You can now go to Step 7: Getting your results and understanding your reading.

# STEP 7 \_\_\_\_\_

Getting your results and understanding your reading With the recorded data, fill in the Midstream Athletics online data sheet, found here if reading this document digitally – this will show the average illumination level.

Or, to get the results manually

- and divide them by the number of measurement points.
- Once you have worked out your average value in the bullet point above, you can calculate your uniformity ratio by dividing the lowest value by this average value (Emin / Eave).

If using our digital document, the link here will take you through to an assessment table. When your assessment is done, you can add your data to align your results to the table below. This will let you know where your facility sits within the guidelines.

Fill in Section B of the athletics assessment report - an example of this section is shown below:

ATHLETICS ASSESSMEN	1
Average lux level	
Lowest reading	
Highest reading	
Uniformity result	
Facility manager opinion of uniformity	
General condition of current system	
Any other comments	
Signed	
Position	

To assess your results please refer to the table here:

LEVEL OF PLAY	HORIZONTAL ILLUMINANCE		
	Outdoor Athletics		
	Eave Lux	Emin / Eave	
INTERNATIONAL / PREMIER	500	0.7	
CLUB	200	0.7	
COMMUNITY	100	0.5	

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• The lux value is just the average of all the readings taken. So, add up all your measurements

REPORT - SECTION B

# Common mistakes to avoid

- Don't use a light meter that isn't calibrated. The light meter must have an annual calibration check, and the results of this will always be provided with the light meter when purchased or rented.
- A mobile phone light meter won't give you accurate results. So don't use one – at all. Use an LED light meter, which is specific for the LED light spectrum.
- Light sources can be multiples, so avoid any shadowing during the readings, including your own shadow.
- Don't take readings in the rain, snow, or fog as this will affect the results too. It can also damage the sensor on the light meter.
- Make sure you start taking the results when it's completely dark and not during dusk.
- It's very important to note the time and date on the report of when the results are recorded. So, please don't forget to do this.
- Don't rotate the light meter sensor. It must be parallel to the ground.
- Make sure there is no other light source that may affect the results.
- All lighting systems must be fully functional.
- Don't forget to refer to England Athletics for the latest lighting requirements to make sure your system is compliant.
- When carrying out formal TrackMark Unit 5 Floodlight inspections always use a SAPCA approved floodlighting contractor to undertake inspections and carry out installation or repair and maintenance work.







# / WORKING DOCUMENTS

ATHLETICS ASSESSMENT REPORT - SECTION A		
Name of club/facility		
Address of club/facility		
Previous lighting installer (if known)		
Time you are taking the reading		
Weather conditions		
Number of masts/poles		
Approximate height of masts/poles		
Total number of floodlights		
Wattage of floodlight if known		
Numbers of lights not working		
Dimensions of track:		
Number of lanes:		
Infield in use – Yes/No. If 'Yes', for what sport		

ATHLETICS ASSESSMEN	IT F
Average lux level	
Lowest reading	
Highest reading	
Uniformity result	
Facility manager opinion of uniformity	
General condition of current System	
Any other comments	
Signed	
Position	





EPORT - SECTION B		

# / FULL TRACK & INSIDE PLAYING AREA Results chart



# / FULL TRACK & INSIDE PLAYING AREA Layout sheet





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**Results chart** 









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![](_page_17_Picture_3.jpeg)

The unit of measurement of illuminance. One lux equals one lumen per square metre.

A factor used to predict the worst-case performance of a lighting system at any point in its life, provided it is properly looked after. A detailed definition of MF is included in the County Surveyors' report on the topic (concerned mainly with road lighting), available for download

The value below which the (average) illuminance in the specified area should not fall at any time during the life of a (properly-maintained) lighting installation. It is the illuminance level at which maintenance should be carried out. The method for determining average illuminance, based on readings over a prescribed grid, is dealt with in CIBSE Lighting Guide LG4: Sports.

The playing area needed for a sport - typically the area bounded by the outer line of the pitch or court markings, though sometimes additional space outside the lines is needed as well, for instance for tennis, volleyball, women's lacrosse. In tennis, the term Principal Play Area (PPA)

The proportion of light falling onto a surface that's reflected back off that surface. (See LRV).

That part of the emergency lighting that provides illumination for the safety of people involved in a potentially dangerous process or situation and to enable proper shutdown procedures for the safety of the operator and other occupants of the premises (known as 'high-risk task area

The part of the emergency lighting which may be provided to enable normal

The measure of disability glare expressed as the percentage increase in contrast required between an object and its background for it to be seen equally well with the

The area encompassing the playing area plus a specified area around it, normally to provide safety margins or run-offs. In tennis, the term Total Play Area (TPA) is used,

The fraction of the light produced by the lamps which leave the luminaries above the horizontal. ULOR, sometimes called ULR, should always be zero for a properly-installed,

The evenness of the distribution of light over the surface. There are two definitions

U1 is defined as the ratio of the minimum illuminance in the area to the maximum illuminance in the area (Emin / Eave). U1 is also sometimes known as Diversity

illuminance over the area (Emin / Eave). The uniformity of light is as important as the level of illumination. Light should be spread evenly over the whole area, including

![](_page_18_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_18_Picture_1.jpeg)

# Want to know more? GET IN TOUCH

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