Sport Facility Leadership Training Course: Operations, Upkeep and Community Access

21 – 25 December 2026
Cape town

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Ref: 912_41499 **Date:** 21 – 25 December 2026 **Location:** Cape town **Fees:** 4800 GBP

Programme Summary

Sport facility leadership is the subject of this one-week training course for sports facility directors, stadium and leisure centre managers and ministry sports officials, taught at managerial level and ending in a sport facility operating plan. Venues often serve fixtures, clubs, schools and the public from one set of pitches, courts and halls, yet upkeep, scheduling and access are decided separately. The programme moves from asset condition to fixture-driven scheduling, surface care, access rules and lifecycle funding using prepared venue records. Mars Training Centre UK delivers this programme on sport facility leadership to mixed-organisation cohorts.

The Business Case

Leaders who can read venue condition, allocate use fairly and plan renewal ahead make better decisions on opening hours, repair, staffing and capital spending. Sport facility leadership links daily venue operations to the purposes of the owner, whether a club, a municipality or a ministry, and to the public who use the venue. The programme works on the measures below.

- Surface and Asset Condition: Improves when stadium management follows planned upkeep, not reaction to damage.
- Venue Utilisation: Rises when community access and fixtures share one allocation rule.
- Lifecycle Cost: Becomes predictable when renewal is funded from a plan, not from emergencies.

Principles and Evidence Base

- ISO 41001: The international standard for facility management systems, applied in Sessions 1 and 3 to define roles, service levels and facility maintenance.
- ISO 55001: The international standard for asset management systems, applied in Session 4 to build a lifecycle plan.
- ISO 20121: The international standard for event sustainability management systems, applied in Session 3 to review event use.

Intended Participants

- Sports facility directors who answer for the condition, safety and use of venues.
- Stadium and arena managers who plan fixture calendars and event day operations.
- Leisure centre managers who balance club, school and public demand on shared spaces.
- Ministry and federation sports officials who set access policy and approve venue budgets.

Typical settings include professional clubs, municipal departments, universities and sports authorities.

Learning Outcomes

1. Participants will be able to evaluate the condition of pitches, courts and halls against a grading scale.
2. Participants will be able to construct a fixture-driven scheduling calendar that protects recovery.
3. Participants will be able to justify an allocation rule for elite and community demand.
4. Participants will be able to design an upkeep calendar and an event day run sheet.
5. Participants will be able to prioritise renewals and justify lifecycle funding to an owner.
6. Participants will be able to formulate a community access policy for board approval.

Programme Structure

Day 1: Sport Facility Leadership Foundations and Asset Condition

What must a leader know about the condition and use of a venue before deciding anything?

- Facility Management System Map Under ISO 41001
- Venue Asset Register Layout
- Condition Grading Scale for Pitches, Courts and Halls
- Usage Data Collection Sheet
- Stakeholder Demand Matrix

Day 2: Fixture-Driven Scheduling and Usage Allocation

How are fixtures, clubs, schools and public sessions fitted into one calendar without damaging surfaces?

- Season Calendar Planning Grid
- Surface Recovery Rest Rule
- Elite Versus Community Allocation Model
- Booking Conflict Escalation Protocol
- Peak and Off-Peak Utilisation Chart

Day 3: Upkeep Cycles, Surface Care and Event Day Operations

Which routine upkeep keeps surfaces safe, and how is an event day run around it?

- Planned Preventive Maintenance Calendar
- Natural and Synthetic Surface Care Cycle
- Event Day Operations Run Sheet
- Turnaround Plan Between Fixtures
- Event Sustainability Review Under ISO 20121

Day 4: Lifecycle Funding and Access Policy

How are renewal and access decisions justified and funded?

- Asset Lifecycle Plan Under ISO 55001
- Renewal and Replacement Cost Schedule
- Revenue Mix and Hire Rate Model
- Community Access Policy Draft
- Safety and Incident Risk Register

Day 5: Sport Facility Operating Plan for One Venue

Do the earlier tools join into a plan that an owner can approve?

- Applying the Session 1 Condition Grading
- Testing the Session 2 Allocation Model
- Checking the Session 3 Upkeep Calendar
- Reviewing the Session 4 Lifecycle Plan
- Completing the Sport Facility Operating Plan

Methodology

The programme is a data workshop built on prepared records from a stadium and a community leisure centre: booking logs, condition surveys, event day schedules and maintenance histories. Participants grade assets, build calendars and cost renewals in small groups, then defend the operating plan to peers acting as a venue owner's board.

- Suggested activity: Grading a pitch and a sports hall from survey notes.
- Suggested activity: Resolving a clash between a league fixture and school bookings.
- Suggested activity: Ranking six renewals for a funding bid.

Capstone Output

Each participant completes a sport facility operating plan for one venue. It holds a condition grading, an allocation rule, an upkeep calendar, a lifecycle plan and a community access policy. At work it goes to the venue owner for approval and sets the seasonal review routine.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is sport facility leadership training suitable for managers who are not engineers?

Yes. Sport facility leadership is taught through prepared records and templates; you need responsibility for a venue, its calendar or its budget, not engineering training.

Which standards does sport facility leadership rest on in this training?

Sport facility leadership here rests on ISO 41001 for facility management systems, ISO 55001 for asset management and ISO 20121 for event sustainability management.

How is the operating plan from sport facility leadership training used at work?

You take the operating plan to your venue owner, use its allocation rule to settle booking disputes, and keep its calendar as the review routine.

How does sport facility leadership differ from a programme on sports event management?

Sport facility leadership concentrates on the condition, upkeep, use and funding of the venue, while a programme on sports event management concentrates on staging one competition.