

Draft	02
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MEDIA HOLDING STATEMENT – FOR REACTIVE USE ONLY

Stefan Diderich, Director General/CEO of [EMEA Synthetic Turf Council \(ESTC\)](#) said: “Synthetic turf systems using crumb rubber infill have long been recognised as safe for use. This was notably confirmed by the 2019 European Risk Assessment Study on Synthetic Turf Rubber Infill (ERASSTRI), which concluded that there were no relevant health concerns for sportspeople who play on synthetic turf pitches using crumb rubber infill.

“Despite this, a significant level of misunderstanding surrounding the safety of synthetic turf persists, particularly in relation to impending legislation from the European Commission. Under new laws, the use of synthetic and recycled infill such as Styrol Butadiene Rubber (SBR) is set to be banned from 2031.

“It should be recognised that the European Commission’s decision to impose these restrictions is not for any health-related concerns. Rather, it forms part of a wider environmental strategy to reduce microplastics, with the same rules applying to other product categories such as cosmetics and detergents.

“Critically, the manufacture, sale, or installation of synthetic turf itself will not be banned anywhere in the European Union when this legislation comes into effect. Restrictions will only be placed upon intentionally added microplastics in polymeric infill such as SBR. The use of fields using these infills installed prior to 2031 will still be permitted when this legislation comes into effect.

“ESTC is fully committed to the development of alternative synthetic turf systems. A number of infill-free options are already available on the market today, alongside a number of natural infills such as cork, processed olive stones, and wood chip. ESTC is actively supporting the development of non-infill and alternative natural infills in the run-up to 2031.”

For more information on the EMEA Synthetic Turf Council (ESTC), visit [estc.info](#)

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