

GRANDSTAND

User manual

Build your publication. Curate with confidence.

WordPress Theme + Grandstand Core

BUILD 1.8.0-rc.1 / 30 OCTOBER 2026

Installation, editorial workflows, appearance, services and support.

Includes a two-page quick-start guide and offline HTML reference.

CONTENTS / QUICK NAVIGATION

Your publication handbook

Choose a chapter. Contents entries and PDF bookmarks are clickable.

01	Start here	14	Style the publication
	Page 3		Page 16
02	Before installation	15	Manage advertising
	Page 4		Page 17
03	Install the matching pair	16	Connect forms and services
	Page 5		Page 18
04	Set up your publication	17	Reader tools and privacy
	Page 6		Page 19
05	Find the right workspace	18	Languages and accessibility
	Page 7		Page 20
06	Understand your homepage	19	Keep loading predictable
	Page 8		Page 21
07	Curate homepage stories	20	Use demo content deliberately
	Page 9		Page 22
08	Prepare homepage editions	21	Update and recover safely
	Page 10		Page 23
09	Write and maintain articles	22	Solve common problems
	Page 11		Page 24
10	Choose and credit images	23	Check services and delivery
	Page 12		Page 25
11	Build related coverage	24	Get help and keep records
	Page 13		Page 26
12	Edit publication wording	25	Files, licenses and references
	Page 14		Page 27
13	Refine the footer		
	Page 15		

Administrators can follow the complete setup. Editors can begin with the workspace, curation and publishing chapters. The separate Quick Start provides a shorter first-run sequence.

The component version remains 1.8.0-rc.1. Read the supplied release and verification notes alongside this guide.

01 / ORIENTATION

Start here

Two matching components. One publication workflow.

What Grandstand provides

Grandstand is a WordPress theme for sports and editorial publications. The theme supplies presentation and reading templates. Grandstand Core supplies publication controls, curation, homepage editions, campaigns and optional integrations. Keep the matching pair installed for those features.

File	Use
Grandstand-WordPress-Theme.zip	Upload in Appearance > Themes.
Grandstand-Core-Plugin.zip	Upload in Plugins.
Grandstand-Complete-Package.zip	Extract on your computer; contains components and documentation.
Grandstand-User-Manual.pdf	Complete setup and publishing reference.
Grandstand-Quick-Start.pdf	Two-page installation and first-publication checklist.

Choose your route

New publication: install the pair, use Getting Started, publish your own stories and prepare a homepage. Existing Grandstand site: follow chapter 21, Update and recover safely. Demo import is optional and is not an update step.

Build identification

This manual covers Theme and Core 1.8.0-rc.1. Clean download names do not change the internal version. Confirm the versions shown in WordPress before replacing an installed component.

How to read menu paths

A path such as Grandstand > Editorial Desk > Footer means open Grandstand in the WordPress sidebar, choose Editorial Desk, then choose Footer. WordPress may label Add New as Add Theme or Add Plugin depending on its version.

02 / INSTALLATION

Before installation

Prepare WordPress and preserve an existing site.

Item	Requirement or action
WordPress	Version 6.6 or later; a working, supported WordPress installation.
PHP	Version 8.0 or later is the declared product minimum. Use a host-supported PHP release.
Access	An administrator account permitted to upload and activate themes/plugins.
Files	Both matching installable ZIPs, extracted from the complete package.
Hosting	Writable WordPress content directories and an upload limit sufficient for each ZIP.
Backups	For an existing site, a restorable database and wp-content backup; test in staging first.

No fixed hosting promise

The theme does not guarantee a particular memory allowance, traffic capacity or hosting speed. Content size, images, plugins, database configuration and caching affect resource needs. Ask the host to resolve upload, filesystem or server restrictions rather than guessing configuration values.

Record what already exists

Before switching themes, note Reading settings, active plugins, menus, widget/block placements, custom code, custom templates and integrations. Presentation settings are theme-specific. A switch to a child theme can require a review of its menu and Customizer settings.

Use the component ZIPs

Do not upload the complete delivery package as a theme. A missing style.css error commonly means the delivery container or plugin ZIP was selected. Grandstand-WordPress-Theme.zip is the installable theme.

Optional services

Newsletter delivery, contact-mail transport, caching/CDN services and external video providers need their own configuration. No live sports-data service, paid-membership system or hosted automatic update service is included by default.

03 / INSTALLATION

Install the matching pair

Complete these steps in the WordPress administrator area.

1

Install the theme

Open Appearance > Themes > Add New > Upload Theme. Select Grandstand-WordPress-Theme.zip, choose Install Now and activate Grandstand.

2

Install Grandstand Core

Open Plugins > Add New > Upload Plugin. Select Grandstand-Core-Plugin.zip, choose Install Now and activate Grandstand Core.

3

Check the pair

Open Grandstand > Tools > Site Checks. Confirm that the theme and Core show the matching version. If Grandstand is absent from the sidebar, check plugin activation and your account permissions.

4

Open the public site

Confirm that pages load, then continue to Getting Started. A blank or sparse editorial section may simply have no eligible published stories yet.

If an earlier version is already installed

Treat the operation as an update, not a fresh setup. Back up first, replace Core and the theme as a matching pair, and retain any active child theme. Follow chapter 21. Do not run another demo import to complete an update.

If WordPress blocks the upload

Check the selected file, host upload limit, available disk space and write permissions. If the host manages theme/plugin installations, ask it to install the supplied component ZIPs through its supported process. Keep the internal folders grandstand and grandstand-core unchanged.

Your content remains native

Articles, pages, categories, tags and media stay in WordPress. Core adds publishing features; it does not require a separate content database or a theme-specific page-builder account.

04 / FIRST PUBLICATION

Set up your publication

Grandstand > Tools > Getting Started

1

Set identity

Review the native site title, displayed wordmark and tagline. Use your real publication name and contact details. Save the identity choices.

2

Publish original stories

Use Posts > Add New. Add the title, body, useful categories, excerpt and featured image; then save and publish through WordPress. Replace sample bylines and reporting if you imported demo content.

3

Prepare a page layout

Use the Page Layouts shortcut in Getting Started to create an editable draft. Available compositions include Newsdesk, Matchday, Club edition, Tournament desk, Analysis journal and Weekend magazine. Change the native blocks and preview before publishing.

4

Assign the homepage

Publish the selected page, then explicitly assign it in Getting Started or WordPress Settings > Reading. The homepage and posts page must be different. Review any saved Front Page template in Site Editor.

5

Review navigation and public output

Open the homepage, an article, a category and the footer on desktop and mobile. Test links, image crops and any enabled forms. Review Site Checks for setup observations.

Homepage Undo is limited

The assignment Undo is available for one day and refuses to overwrite later Reading changes. It restores the previous homepage choice when still valid; it is not a full site backup.

Mark the guide reviewed

The setup acknowledgement records that you reviewed guidance. It does not certify launch readiness. You can show the guide again without resetting your publication.

05 / ADMINISTRATION

Find the right workspace

Seven destinations for administrators; four for permitted editors.

Overview	Current source, shortcuts and recent stories
Editorial Desk	Homepage / collections / text / footer / review
Homepage Editions	Native drafts, previews and history
Campaigns	Native records and placement defaults
Settings	Identity / navigation / integrations / privacy
Tools	Getting started / import / checks / diagnostics
Help & Updates	Editorial guidance and paired updates

Account	Typical access
Administrator	All seven destinations; identity, integrations, imports, diagnostics and protected footer fields.
Permitted editor	Overview, Editorial Desk, Homepage Editions and Help & Updates; daily editorial controls.
Author / contributor	Native article workflow and publication fields on stories the account is allowed to edit.

Permissions follow capabilities

Custom roles may differ from the default roles. Knowing a screen URL does not grant access. If a control is missing, ask the administrator to review the account capabilities rather than sharing an administrator login.

Save within the current section

Each redesigned form saves its own section and preserves unrelated settings. Save before moving on. The interface warns about changed forms when supported by the browser. If another editor saved the same section, reload after the conflict message, review the newer values and reapply your changes.

Older bookmarks

Old Footer, Publication wording, Navigation and other supported bookmarks redirect to their current sections. If an old submitted form asks you to reload, reopen the current workspace before saving.

06 / HOMEPAGE

Understand your homepage

Check the source of the visible page before changing its settings.

Layer	Where to look
Page assignment	Getting Started or WordPress Settings > Reading decides which published page is the homepage.
Template and page blocks	Appearance > Editor and the assigned page control structure. A saved Front Page template can take priority over a page composition.
Curation source	Overview / Editorial Desk > Homepage identifies base choices or the currently effective published edition.
Article details	The native post editor supplies the story title, excerpt, cover and any card-specific overrides.

1 Read the source panel

Open Grandstand > Editorial Desk > Homepage. If an effective published edition is identified, use Edit active edition to change its selections.

2 Check the page structure

If the page does not resemble the expected composition, inspect the assigned page and saved template. Opening base settings does not replace a custom saved template.

3 Choose the correct editing home

Use Homepage for base curation, Homepage Editions for a named edition, and the native page/Site Editor for structure. Then save and review the public URL.

Base settings stay separate

Editing base choices does not silently replace a published edition. Use the explicit Use base settings instead action in Homepage Editions when you intend to return to base curation.

Keep scheduling separate

An edition can choose placements, but WordPress still controls whether an article itself is published. Confirm the site timezone and the status of scheduled posts before relying on a future editorial plan.

07 / DAILY EDITING

Curate homepage stories

Grandstand > Editorial Desk > Homepage

1

Choose lead and long-read stories

Search by story name in the pickers. Review the photograph, date and category, choose the intended story and save the section. Edit the article itself to change its cover or card headline.

2

Arrange supporting sections

Use the available curation modes for supporting stories, In Focus and the lower story grid. Set their headings, visibility and counts to match the available reporting.

3

Review exact and automatic choices

Exact selection retains your order and leaves unused positions empty. Automatic or pinned modes use their eligible published-story rules. Empty exact slots do not imply a failed import.

4

Check the whole page

Preview the public homepage after saving, especially if an edition, a custom page structure or deduplication is active.

Collections & Recommendations

Open the adjacent section for weekly/video selections, headings and counts, category filters, weekly destination and article-sidebar recommendations. Sport ordering and optional homepage deduplication are also here.

Avoid accidental repetition

Deduplication reserves lead/supporting positions before later collections. An exact later collection can become empty when all its stories were already used. Reorder your picks, add more eligible reporting or review the deduplication setting.

Counts describe available content

A requested count does not create articles. Draft, private, deleted or password-protected stories are omitted from public editorial selections. Check status, category filters and exact picks when a section is short.

08 / DAILY EDITING

Prepare homepage editions

Grandstand > Homepage Editions

1

Create a named draft

Add an edition with a useful name, such as Weekend lead or Tournament opening. Choose placements, headings and visibility, then save it as a draft. Draft editions do not affect the public homepage.

2

Preview saved choices

Use Preview saved edition while signed in with an account permitted to edit editions. Save changes before previewing. The preview link is private and session-bound; do not use it as a public promotional link.

3

Choose an effective time

Set the local effective date/time, or leave it blank for now. Publish the edition through WordPress. The newest effective published edition supplies its homepage curation overlay.

4

Review the public homepage

Verify the effective edition, the actual article publication states and host-cache behavior. Future articles remain subject to WordPress scheduling.

Restore without losing the earlier record

Restore as a new current edition creates a new published edition from the earlier selection. It preserves the original record. Use base settings instead explicitly disables the edition overlay. Editions also participate in native revisions.

Know the scope

Editions do not replace page assignment, custom templates or article publication. They exclude global article-sidebar recommendations and global ticker visibility. They are curation history, not a complete newsroom approval calendar.

Shared caches and timing

A host/CDN that serves cached pages without running WordPress must respect expiry and private-response behavior. Verify the actual cache provider before promising timed public changes.

09 / PUBLISHING

Write and maintain articles

Posts > Edit > Publication details, attribution and curation

Keep the native article authoritative

Use the WordPress title, body, excerpt, featured image, categories, tags and publishing controls. Add a deck for a subtitle beneath the article title. A short card headline or alternative card image changes cards without replacing the native title or cover.

Field group	How to use it
Category and story label	Choose an attached primary category and a label such as News, Analysis, Opinion, Interview, Feature or Sponsored.
Sources and methods	Add source names, optional HTTPS links and reader-facing reporting methods. Use accurate disclosures for sponsored reporting.
Corrections	Add a valid local date/time and explanation for each correction. Stored moments remain stable if the site timezone later changes.
Contributors	Select real native contributors, optional guest attribution and edited-by credit. Maintain public profiles and biographies in WordPress.
Private notes	Internal review notes are editorial data; they are distinct from public methods, disclosures and corrections.

Save and inspect notices

Publication fields participate in native revisions. Invalid source/correction rows or promotion times preserve the previous publication details and show a notice; the native article body may have saved separately. Correct the flagged detail and save again.

Review the saved story

The prepublish/sidebar checks and Editorial Desk > Review inspect saved information. Save and refresh before relying on observations. A clean advisory check is not factual, legal or rights approval.

10 / MEDIA

Choose and credit images

Use the native Media Library and deliberate fallback choices.

1

Select the cover

Edit the article, set its Featured image and save. If a card has an alternative image, review that separate field too. A new cover will not necessarily replace an intentional card override.

2

Add useful alternative text

Describe meaningful imagery for readers who need a text alternative. Decorative imagery can deliberately have empty alternative text. Do not put a credit line into alt text just to fill the field.

3

Record credit and crop

In image details, add photographer/agency credit and an optional HTTPS credit link. Keep rights notes private. Use focal coordinates from 0 to 100 when a crop needs adjustment, then inspect desktop and mobile results.

4

Set category artwork if needed

Edit the native category and choose its artwork. This is independent of the article cover.

Why an image can be missing

Check the featured image, card override, actual media URL, article status, theme/Core pair and any active edition. Grandstand does not invent a sport photograph for every unpictured story. An explicit fallback can be configured in Settings > Identity & Social; article fallbacks are labelled Illustrative image.

Check real delivery

If an assigned image does not load, open its public URL and ask the host to review missing files, permissions or a CDN issue. Clear only the relevant page/image cache after correcting the cause. Avoid replacing every image to hide one failed attachment.

Demo artwork is illustrative

The supplied photos do not establish that fictional demo reporting depicts real events. Keep the credit/license records and use reporting-specific, appropriately licensed media for your publication.

11 / PUBLISHING

Build related coverage

Recommendations, series and topic hubs use native stories and terms.

Related stories and sidebar choices

Choose automatic recommendations, exact selected stories, pinned stories with automatic fill, or none.

Exclusions are independent. Check published status and visibility when a selected story is omitted. An exact list can intentionally have fewer items than its requested count.

1 Create a series

Assign a native tag to the stories in the series. In the article controls, choose that assigned tag as the series. The article can then show chronological previous/next stories and the native tag archive.

2 Create a topic desk

In a native page, insert the Grandstand Topic Hub block. Choose a category or tag by name, add an optional heading/intro, and select latest, ordered picks with fill, or exact picks.

3 Review term membership

Chosen hub stories must belong to the selected term. A hub displays up to 12 stories and links to the full native archive. Publish the page only after checking its reporting and links.

Breaking promotions

On an article, enable the Breaking News flag and optionally set local start/end times and priority. Blank start means immediately; blank end means no expiry. Promotion expiry removes the promotion without unpublishing the story. Higher priority wins, with stable tie handling.

Video and transcripts

Use the supplied captions/WebVTT and transcript controls for your actual media. A public full-transcript page can supplement a modal excerpt. Embedded providers own their playback/caption interfaces; the theme does not generate verified captions from a URL.

Topic pages are editorial pages

They organize your published content. They do not provide live scores, fixtures or a licensed external sports-data feed.

12 / CONTENT SETTINGS

Edit publication wording

Grandstand > Editorial Desk > Publication Text

1

Find the reader-facing area

Use the wording search to find a field or clear the search to see all groups. Search hides nonmatching controls without discarding their saved values.

2

Choose inherited or custom wording

Leave Use inherited wording checked to use the supplied wording. Type an override to clear that choice. An explicitly blank override omits its text. Without JavaScript, uncheck inheritance manually before saving.

3

Save the section

Use the section save action, then review the actual public location. A local block override in a saved page or template can intentionally differ from the global wording.

Global wording and local blocks

Contact/About wording, section descriptions, empty states and newsletter invitations can inherit global publication text. In a saved template, a publication-text block may instead use a local override. Existing custom templates are not silently replaced on update.

Newsletter invitation versus provider connection

Manage the invitation and its destination here. Connect the actual registered provider form under Settings > Integrations. A button label or invitation URL does not configure subscriber storage, consent or delivery.

When a save conflicts

Reload the section and review the saved values before reapplying your changes. A stale same-section submission is blocked to protect a colleague's newer edit. Editing another section does not itself mean your form is stale.

Text does not rewrite reporting

Publication wording changes interface copy, not the body, accuracy or attribution of your existing stories. Review published articles separately.

13 / CONTENT SETTINGS

Refine the footer

Grandstand > Editorial Desk > Footer

Edit the content first

Set headings, reading selections and sport links in the Footer section. Administrators also control protected publication summary, identity, copyright, credits and column-menu fields. Clearing a heading omits it. Copyright accepts {year} and {site_title} as substitutions.

Control	Result
Reading recommendations	Latest, selected stories in your order, or latest from a chosen sport; 1-5 stories. Exact selections do not fill with unrelated stories.
Sports directory	Automatic most-covered categories, or up to eight selected categories in your order. Deliberately selected empty categories can be retained.
Coverage / Publication menus	Assign native WordPress menus separately. Each replaces its column's automatic links. Clearing/deleting it restores automatic links.
Inherited Footer menu	The existing Footer-location menu is supported when no Publication replacement is assigned. Footer menus show one level.

Then adjust presentation

Choose Open footer appearance, or Appearance > Grandstand Customize > 05 - Footer & Finishing > Footer Presentation. Choose Classic editorial, Balanced columns or Identity above links; review order, visibility, text sizing, mobile stacking, spacing and colors.

Use intentional column order

The up/down controls change DOM and keyboard order as well as visual order. Hidden columns collapse unused tracks. Reading recommendations remain above the columns and the copyright bar below.

A completely custom footer

The footer remains a dynamic settings-driven block. If replacing the template part with native blocks in Site Editor, review which Grandstand controls your replacement still uses.

14 / PRESENTATION

Style the publication

Appearance, native menus and Grandstand settings work together.

Identity & Social

Under Grandstand > Settings, configure the displayed wordmark, utility statement, public contact email, social profiles, editorial/corrections-policy links and explicit fallback artwork. The native site title and homepage assignment remain available in Getting Started/native WordPress settings.

Theme presentation

Use Appearance > Grandstand Customize for the supplied colors, typography, spacing and presentation controls. Preview the change, then publish it deliberately. Use Appearance > Editor for native block templates and template parts. Saved custom templates can retain local styles or structure.

Page compositions and presets

Page Layouts creates editable native page drafts; it does not assign a homepage automatically. Layout Presets previews presentation choices in the Customizer without resetting story picks, identity or integrations. Closing without publishing leaves the live settings unchanged.

Navigation ownership

Open Grandstand > Settings > Navigation. Review whether the ordered Grandstand list or the native Primary menu controls output. The conversion/undo workflow is explicit; do not assume a menu has been converted merely because the screen was opened.

1 Build a native menu

Create and review your links using the WordPress menu tools offered by the screen.

2 Assign the correct location

Set the intended Primary/Footer location or specific footer column replacement, then save.

3 Inspect the public result

Test desktop navigation, mobile navigation, focus order and destination URLs. Check for a saved template or Grandstand list override if the wrong links appear.

Protect code customizations

Keep custom PHP/CSS changes in a properly configured child theme or a separate plugin. Editing parent component files directly can lose those edits during replacement updates.

15 / CAMPAIGNS

Manage advertising

Grandstand > Campaigns; use Placement defaults for fallback artwork.

1

Create a named campaign

Add the campaign in the native campaign editor. Configure its placement, published/enabled status, valid artwork and HTTPS destination.

2

Review schedule and targeting

Check local dates/times, optional mobile artwork, device rules, category targeting and priority. Category-targeted campaigns do not run on the general homepage.

3

Publish and inspect

Publish the record, then check the actual public placement on the intended device and category. Eligible named campaigns take precedence over fallback placements.

4

Set fallback defaults

Use Placement defaults from the campaign list for the home, article and archive defaults. Save and review the relevant pages.

When a campaign is missing

Check whether it is enabled and published, inside its schedule, targeted to the current page/category/device and supplied with usable media and destination. A higher-priority eligible campaign can take the placement. Local ad-blocking software can also hide advertising.

Commercial scope

The library supports up to 100 published campaign entries. It provides selection and display controls, not billing, ad-network accounts, guaranteed impression analytics or advertiser reporting. Establish any external tracking separately with your provider.

Cache and expiry

WordPress-side boundary checks cannot force every external CDN to purge. Confirm that your caching setup honors campaign expiry, private responses and necessary purge rules before selling time-specific placement.

16 / INTEGRATIONS

Connect forms and services

Grandstand > Settings > Integrations

1

Activate your newsletter provider

Configure the provider plugin/account using its own documentation. Obtain its ordinary registered form shortcode.

2

Save the form connection

Enter the shortcode in Newsletter form connection and save. Review the saved registration status, then test the visible form on the public site.

3

Check the complete signup journey

Verify consent text, confirmation messages, delivery, subscriber storage and unsubscribe behavior with the chosen provider. A registered shortcode alone does not prove successful subscription.

4

Add an analytics destination if used

Supply the publisher's HTTPS analytics-dashboard link. This is a link to your dashboard, not an API connection or a built-in conversion report.

Contact pages

Use the supplied native Contact blocks/template and edit reader-facing wording deliberately. The contact form sends through WordPress mail transport to the website administrator. Confirm the actual destination and inbox receipt with the host/mail provider; a successful submission does not prove delivery.

What the theme does not configure

Grandstand does not create a newsletter subscriber service, provider account, consent program or email-delivery infrastructure. It does not promise complete compatibility with every installed form, analytics or caching plugin.

Use real-world tests

Check the provider form as a signed-out reader and test an actual message. Do this on your own configured site; an isolated demonstration lab may deliberately block outgoing mail and external connections.

17 / SITE OPERATIONS

Reader tools and privacy

Grandstand > Settings > Reader Experience & Privacy

Choose optional reader controls

Enable article contents navigation, saved stories, native sharing/copy-link fallback and sport-filtered search as appropriate. Saved stories stay in the reader's browser/device, up to 40 items, and disappear when that storage is cleared. They are not an account-synchronized reading list.

Understand approximate article reads

Optional read collection records aggregate article visits using salted, time-limited fingerprints; raw IP/agent values are not stored by this feature. It is not a unique-person count, video-play count, completion metric or subscription-conversion report. Imported/test traffic may appear in retained aggregates.

Set daily retention

The supplied default is 90 days; the policy permits 8-365 days. Lowering the period can remove older owned daily-count metadata during cleanup. Disabling new collection does not cancel cleanup of already retained data.

1

Review the policy

Decide whether approximate collection should be enabled and select the appropriate retention period.

2

Inspect maintenance

Open Tools > Maintenance & Diagnostics to review next scheduled cleanup and the last recorded run.

3

Check execution

A scheduled event alone does not prove cron has run. If cleanup is not executing, ask the host to review WordPress cron and database diagnostics.

Write your own privacy information

Review the actual providers, embeds, mail transport, browser storage and publication policies you use. Demo policy text is an outline. This manual describes feature behavior; it is not a site-specific privacy policy.

18 / READER EXPERIENCE

Languages and accessibility

Translate your publication and review the experience with real content.

Language setup

Install the relevant WordPress core language pack and choose the site/user locale in WordPress. Theme/Core use English source strings, supplied POT templates and editable PO catalogs. Existing Bengali and Arabic catalogs cover selected strings; complete human-reviewed translations are not supplied.

Saved content needs its own translation

Articles, pages, menus, editorial headings, local block overrides and publication wording are your saved content. Switching the WordPress language does not automatically translate them. Review the actual output for each supported locale.

RTL and custom designs

RTL styles are included. Review the real layout, punctuation, numbers, menus, image captions and forms in the chosen language. A translation catalog is not evidence that every locale or multilingual-plugin workflow has been tested.

1

Check keyboard operation

Use the site without a mouse. Review navigation, visible focus, dialogs, share controls and form errors.

2

Review reading and media

Use useful headings, descriptive links, appropriate image alternative text, captions and accurate transcripts.

3

Inspect contrast and scaling

Check the chosen colors and text after customization, zoom the page and review mobile layouts using actual content.

Accessibility depends on the publication

Included controls and automated checks do not certify all customer content, custom colors, embeds or third-party plugins. Keep accessibility review part of your publishing process.

19 / PERFORMANCE

Keep loading predictable

Optimize the site you actually publish.

1

Start with appropriately sized media

Use a source large enough for the displayed crop without uploading needlessly heavy files. Preserve a usable original, use normal WordPress image sizes and confirm that generated attachments load.

2

Review plugins and embeds

Keep the services you need, remove avoidable duplicate functionality and inspect heavyweight external embeds. Test changes on staging before altering a production site.

3

Configure hosting and caching

Use the host's supported cache/CDN setup. Confirm signed-in/private responses, edition previews, password-protected content and timed editorial/campaign boundaries are handled correctly.

4

Measure representative pages

Check the homepage, a long article, category/archive pagination, search and forms using real content. Compare cold and warm runs and more than one mobile scenario.

5

Recheck after meaningful changes

Repeat targeted checks after changing layouts, image strategy, provider embeds, advertising or a large plugin.

Large content libraries

Deep Latest Stories pagination uses native totals and canonical URLs; valid pages can go beyond 100. Malformed or out-of-range custom page requests return 404. Actual database and caching performance still depends on the host and content.

Interpret the evidence carefully

The supplied acceptance report includes local and hosted functional checks and server diagnostics. Those results are not a guaranteed mobile score or a traffic-capacity promise for another hosting environment.

Scheduled does not mean delivered

Future WordPress posts need native scheduling to publish. Cached pages can remain old if the provider ignores expiry or purge instructions. Test scheduled behavior with the exact services you use.

20 / SETUP TOOLS

Use demo content deliberately

Grandstand > Tools > Demo Import

Choose whether you need it

You can build the publication entirely from your own content. Demo import is useful on a disposable preview or a clean setup when you want sample structure and photography. Existing publications do not need another import after updating code.

1 Back up and review the screen

Read the import choices before starting. Use a staging or clean site when learning the workflow. Do not treat an importer as a rollback tool.

2 Import explicitly

Choose the deliberate import action. Allow the host request to complete and review any result or error message before retrying.

3 Replace the sample material

Review stories, sample bylines, category names, contact/policy text, illustrations, images and external links. Demonstration reporting is fictional, not publishable factual coverage.

4 Review media separately

Use the importer's explicit media repair/refresh choices only when they fit the problem. Code updates alone do not replace customer media. Keep manually chosen media protected.

Troubleshooting an interrupted import

Check host execution limits, available storage, writable media directories and the reported failure. Avoid repeatedly importing blindly. Send the exact message and reproduction details to support if the cause is unclear.

Demo photos and motion samples

Photography is supplied with separate source/credit records. Motion diagrams are conceptual samples, not match footage. Check licenses, replace unsuitable imagery and keep appropriate attribution records.

21 / MAINTENANCE

Update and recover safely

Use the matching component pair and preserve a rollback point.

1

Back up before replacement

Save a restorable database and wp-content backup, retain the current component ZIPs and record custom changes. Test the update on staging.

2

Download the matching pair

Obtain the supplied Theme and Grandstand Core ZIPs from your purchase source. Compare the internal versions and review release notes.

3

Replace Core first

Open Plugins > Add New > Upload Plugin, select Grandstand-Core-Plugin.zip and use WordPress's replace-installed-version workflow.

4

Replace the parent theme

Open Appearance > Themes > Add New > Upload Theme and replace the installed Grandstand parent with Grandstand-WordPress-Theme.zip. Keep a properly configured child theme active if used.

5

Verify and clear the relevant cache

Check matching versions in Site Checks. Review the homepage, article, categories/pagination, protected content, footer and integrations. Then clear the host cache as appropriate.

If an update fails

Pause further changes. Restore a verified database/file backup or ask the host to perform a coordinated recovery. Restore a matching pair and preserve any content added since the backup. A code rollback is not permission to reset customer data or run another demo import.

Keep changes outside parent files

Use a child theme or a separate plugin for code customizations. Native saved templates and theme-specific presentation settings also need review when switching themes.

Update delivery

Manual paired updates are the default. A hosted automatic update service is not included by default. Do not assume a directory listing or a disabled developer manifest adapter supplies automatic delivery.

22 / TROUBLESHOOTING

Solve common problems

Start with the actual source of the output, not a full reset.

Symptom	Checks and next action
Missing style.css on install	Upload Grandstand-WordPress-Theme.zip. Extract the complete package first; do not select the Core plugin ZIP.
Grandstand menu missing	Confirm Core is activated, the matching theme is installed and the account has the needed capabilities.
Homepage looks unchanged	Check published page assignment, saved Front Page template, active edition and relevant cache.
A story image is absent	Inspect the featured image, card override, eligible story status, selected edition and public media URL. Explicit fallback artwork is optional.
Exact collection has gaps	Check selected stories, published visibility, category filters and deduplication. Exact modes intentionally leave unused positions empty.
Save conflict / 409	Reload that section, review the newer saved values and reapply the intended edit. Do not repeatedly resubmit the stale form.
Permission / 403	Use the permitted account and a current form. Ask an administrator to review role capabilities; do not share credentials.
Article details did not update	Read the notice for invalid source/correction/time input. The body may have saved separately; correct details and save again.

Avoid destructive troubleshooting

Do not delete tables, reset all theme settings or reimport demonstration content as a first response. Preserve the current state and test one likely cause at a time.

23 / TROUBLESHOOTING

Check services and delivery

A visible form or saved schedule is only part of the workflow.

Symptom	Checks and next action
Campaign not visible	Check enabled/published status, schedule, artwork, placement, category/device rules and higher-priority eligible campaigns. Review ad blocking and cache.
Newsletter form missing	Activate/configure the chosen provider and verify that the saved ordinary shortcode is registered. Review public output signed out.
Signup or message not received	Test the provider/mail transport and real destination. A registered shortcode or successful contact submission does not prove inbox receipt.
Old content after a timed change	Confirm the article itself published, the intended edition became effective and cache expiry/purge behavior is correct.
Untranslated text	Check locale/core language pack, catalog coverage and saved publication content/local block overrides.
Archive page returns 404	Confirm that the requested page exists within the current total. Malformed or out-of-range custom pagination is intentionally unavailable.
Cleanup has no recorded run	Review Tools > Maintenance & Diagnostics. Ask the host to check cron; a next scheduled event is not proof of execution.
Slow public pages	Measure representative pages, check image delivery, review heavy providers/plugins and consult the host about cache/database behavior.

For an unresolved issue

Record the expected and actual result, exact steps, versions and a redacted screenshot. Use the supplied support-request template. Test plugin conflicts on a staging copy with a backup, not by disabling services blindly on a live publication.

24 / SUPPORT

Get help and keep records

Use the supplied diagnostics and clear reproduction steps.

1

Check the built-in guidance

Open Grandstand > Help & Updates for publishing and paired-update guidance. Editors can read the permitted editorial guide; administrative export remains restricted.

2

Download redacted diagnostics

As an administrator, open Tools > Maintenance & Diagnostics and deliberately download the support snapshot. It contains versions, locale and setup-check results, not site content or credentials. It is not sent automatically.

3

Prepare a useful request

Use SUPPORT-REQUEST.txt. Include the component/WordPress/PHP versions, exact steps, expected versus actual behavior and relevant recent changes. Add redacted screenshots and diagnostics if useful.

4

Contact the supplied support address

Email support@themescorpion.com or use the support details associated with your purchase. This manual does not establish a response-time, refund or support-duration promise.

Never include secrets

Do not send passwords, application passwords, session cookies, upload tokens, private keys, customer databases or wp-config.php. Remove personal/private information from screenshots and logs.

Keep the delivery records

Retain the component ZIPs, FILE-MANIFEST.json, license/credit files, release notes and your own backup history. The next page lists the included material and official reference links.

Before you open to readers

Use PRE-LAUNCH-CHECKLIST.md to review reporting, bylines, images, navigation, forms, privacy information, mobile reading and backups. Site Checks are advisory observations, not a publication certificate.

25 / REFERENCE

Files, licenses and references

Keep these records with the publication and any future update.

Record	What it contains
START-HERE.md / QUICK-START.md	Installation entry point and short first-publication sequence.
INSTALLATION-AND-UPDATES.md	Matching-pair installation, replacement and rollback instructions.
TROUBLESHOOTING-AND-FAQ.md	Symptoms, likely checks and escalation advice.
SUPPORT-REQUEST.txt	Copyable reproduction template without a password field.
RELEASE-NOTES.md / REQUIREMENTS.md	Delivered build identity, changes and declared environment.
LICENSES-AND-CREDITS.md / licenses/	Supplied code notice, GPL text, font notices and provenance records.
FILE-MANIFEST.json	Component checksums and complete documentation inventory.

License scope

Theme/Core code is supplied under GPL-2.0-or-later as stated in the component notices. Bundled fonts retain their SIL Open Font License notices. Demo photos remain under their separate source license; keep DEMO-PHOTO-CREDITS.md and MEDIA-MANIFEST.json. The photo license does not establish endorsement or transfer every third-party right.

Official references

WordPress theme installation: wordpress.org/documentation/article/work-with-themes/

WordPress plugin installation: wordpress.org/documentation/article/manage-plugins/

GNU GPL v2: gnu.org/licenses/old-licenses/gpl-2.0.html

Pexels license: pexels.com/license/

Documentation scope

Prepared 30 October 2026 for 1.8.0-rc.1. Menu wording may vary by WordPress version, locale and role. See WORKSPACE-ACCEPTANCE.md for verification scope.