

WET WEATHER POLICY

Date 14 February 2018

Council Resolution Date 26/02/2018

Clause Number CCL18/19

Responsible Position Recreation Coordinator

Branch Open Space and Recreation

Division Community and Recreation

Version 1

TRIM Reference Number ED18/19538

Review Period Annually

Review Date 1 February 2019

Consultation Not applicable

Document Revision History	
Description	Date
Notes	

POLICY

PURPOSE

This policy aims to:

- Safeguard the health and welfare of players;
- Minimise the risk of potential litigation of Council;
- Avoid unnecessary, excessive and costly damage to sporting fields;
- Enable the greatest number of user groups to get the maximum use of fields in fair condition;
- Enable user groups wherever reasonable and possible, time to complete their seasonal competition, but not to the detriment of field quality;
- Assist Council to continue providing good quality sporting fields;
- Avoid the situation where Council is confronted by a long rehabilitation process to restore field condition.

BACKGROUND AND RELATED LEGISLATION

Amendment to the previous Dubbo City Council Wet Weather Policy.

SCOPE

The decision making process required in relation to the closure of Dubbo Regional Council sporting facilities as a result of wet weather.

POLICY

In adhering to this policy, user groups are requested to consider the following points:

- The majority of fields are multi use, fields are used by other groups in the same season and/or their off season. Thus potential damage may impact on other users.
- Repairing and rehabilitating fields' costs money and staff time - user groups ignoring Council directives or advice resulting in serious damage to field would be expected to fully fund the cost of repairs.
- Whilst the completion of events is of the highest priority, cancellations or alternative arrangements must be made when grounds are unplayable.

GENERAL POLICY

All decisions regarding availability of fields are to be made jointly by the Sporting Asset Coordinator and the Recreation Coordinator. One representative of each user group may attend the decision making meeting, including ground inspections. If no mutual decision can be reached, the matter is referred to the Director of Community and Recreation for consideration. If no consensus can be reached by the Director, then the matter is referred to the General Manager for a decision.

Wet weather inspections are to be instigated by the Sporting Asset Coordinator if any rainfall is received that in his/her view could affect the condition of the playing surface if used. In the event that the Sporting Asset Coordinator and Recreation Coordinator are unable to inspect sporting

grounds in Wellington advice can be sourced from the Community and Recreation Operations East On Call Staff Member. The Sporting Asset Coordinator is to contact the Recreation Coordinator as soon as inspections are deemed necessary to make a decision. A more conservative approach in protecting grounds shall be applied for training. This means it is more likely that grounds shall be closed for training as opposed to competition and events.

Inspections may occur on weekdays and weekends. A decision for weekday sport (including the afternoon, night of and the following day) will be made at 2.00 pm with potential updates still able to occur up until 5.30pm. A decision for weekend sport will be made at 2.00 pm Friday for Saturday sport and 2.00 pm Saturday for Sunday sport. However, such a decision may be made earlier if there is an obvious outcome, or if the user requires. A decision of non-closure at these times may still require that further field inspections occur and decisions made prior to the proposed commencement of the event. For example, if a decision of non-closure is made on a Friday however a further inspection is required on the Saturday morning, such inspection shall take place and a decision made no later than 7.30 am.

The Sporting Asset Coordinator and Recreation Coordinator also reserves the right to reverse any original decisions made regarding sporting field closures during a user group event, training or competition when required.

In the event of a ground being declared unfit for play, the scheduled event may be transferred to another ground only if that ground is deemed fit to use and only if there is no likelihood of other users being disadvantaged.

In the communication of decisions made:

- (a) Week day afternoon and night user groups are to reference the Council website after 2pm for decisions. The Recreation Coordinator will also contact user groups affected by field closures as soon as a decision is made.
- (b) The previously nominated representative for a week day event is to be notified by the Recreation Coordinator as soon as the decision is made.
- (c) For weekend user groups, the previously nominated representative is to be notified by the Recreation Coordinator or Sporting Asset Coordinator as soon as a decision is made.

The Recreation Coordinator or Sporting Facility Coordinator should notify relevant Council staff as soon as practicable after a decision is made. Any other notifications (opposing teams, media, etc) are the responsibility of the affected user.

User groups have the right to call off matches if they so desire without any prior consultation with Council. If this occurs and services provided by council have been arranged, during business hours Council's Recreation Coordinator or Open Space and Recreation On Call Staff should be notified by the user group as soon as possible.

In the event of heavy rainfall such that serious damage is likely to result after a decision has been made to proceed with the fixture, the users should exercise the option to abandon part, or all of the program. If the users continue with the game(s), they could be required to contribute to the costs of rehabilitating the playing surface to its pre-match condition.

In the event of wet weather causing ground closures during the season, affected bodies should be encouraged to consider the following possibilities:

- (a) Transferring game(s) to another venue if available without detriment to other users.

- (b) Transferring game(s) to another time
- (c) When compiling the draw, allow for extension of the season to allow for the playing of cancelled games.

In the event of wet weather causing ground closures during final series, affected bodies should be encouraged to consider either:

- (a) Transferring match (s) to another venue if available without detriment to other users.
- (b) Transferring game(s) to another time – either mid-week or extending the season
- (c) Abandoning some preliminary matches to enable later matches to proceed.

In the event where Council staff have placed the covers over turf cricket pitches due to forecasted rainfall it is the responsibility of the user group to remove the covers.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Recreation Coordinator and Sporting Asset Coordinator