



Football South Coast:

Wet Weather Procedures and Communication to Members

Objective:

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Outline the process for determining postponements and cancellations for Men's Premiership, Amateurs, Women's and Junior Competitions
- Outline the communication process around postponed or cancelled games due to wet weather.
- This does NOT apply to the Five A Side competition at the Frat, School Holiday clinics and FSC Academies

Men's Premiership

Council Grounds

Upon advice from the relevant Local Government Authority (LGA) that the ground is closed:

Football South Coast will post the cancellation or rescheduled time of the game on the FSC Web Page (Notice Board) as soon as advised.

For any private, leased grounds or where LGA grounds are declared open but potentially unsafe

Inspection Procedure

Friday Games

FSC shall endeavour to make a decision as early as possible on match day or where heavy rain has fallen during the week by Friday 5pm. A field inspection shall be undertaken on the Friday by home club personnel and form an opinion on whether the pitch is fit and safe for weekend matches to proceed on the following two points.

- Player safety
- Substantial damage to field

The home club shall then notify FSC Competition Coordinator of their opinion who shall then decide on the following action:-

1. Matches are to be postponed for weekend **or**
2. Referee is required to carry out pitch inspection on Saturday **or**
3. Match is to be rescheduled to Sunday if no more rain is predicted and pitch has a good chance of recovering in time. Or if element of doubt
4. Send an FSC MFC appointed person on Friday for another opinion



Football South Coast:

Wet Weather Procedures and Communication to Members

When matches are called off prior to match day at the discretion of Football South Coast, the referee shall be advised accordingly asap.

All cancellations are to be placed on FSC website and i98fm where possible.

Saturday, Sunday and Public Holiday's games

- i. The main game Referee is to Contact the club Secretary the day before the fixture to pre arrange the inspection time
- ii. The first grade match Referee (or his nominee who ideally should also be a first grade match Referee who resides closest to the ground) will inspect the ground in conjunction with Club officials and/or groundsman prior to 8:30am for Saturday matches and by 8:30 on Sunday for Sunday matches.

For U18 fixtures kicking off at 9:00am – the Referee / Club Secretary to make a decision by 7am or by 8pm on the night prior to the fixture.

- iii. The main game Referee (or his nominee) will then advise the club how many if any matches can be played
- iv. Directly following inspection the club secretary / representative is to contact FSC Competition Coordinator Bobby Mazeovski on 0407284770 of inspection decision who will advise impacted clubs.
- v. The main game Referee is then to contact the Appointments Officer on 0417 206 508, who shall inform the Referee who his fellow officials are
- vi. The main game Referee is then to contact those officials & inform them of his decision, whether the fixtures are on or off by 9.30am
- vii. If games are postponed on Saturday they will automatically be rescheduled for the following day or long weekend day if in the referee's opinion the pitch may be right for play if no more rain is forecast.

Football South Coast will put the outcome of the inspection on the FSC Web Page (Notice Board) and advise i98fm as soon as advised.



Football South Coast:

Wet Weather Procedures and Communication to Members

Mid-Week games

- i. The main game Referee if available is to inspect the ground with club officials prior to 8.30am on the day of the game
- ii. If he is unavailable to inspect the ground, he is to inform Bobby Mazevski on 0407284770 prior to 9.00am on the day of the game
- iii. The FSC Men's Competition Co-ordinator will then organise the inspection of the ground with club officials
- iv. The FSC Men's Competition Co-ordinator will contact the appointed Match Officials to advise the outcome of the mid-week inspection.

Football South Coast will post the outcome of the inspection on the FSC Web Page (Notice Board) as soon as advised and notify impacted clubs.

Note: Inspection of Helensburgh, Picton completed by club

Refer to Appendix A for Guidelines that may assist in the inspection decision making process.

Women's and Community League Competitions

Council Grounds

Upon advice from the relevant Local Government Authority (LGA) that the ground is closed:

Football South Coast will post the cancellation or rescheduled time of the game on the FSC Web Page (Notice Board) as soon as advised

For any private, leased grounds or where LGA grounds are declared open but potentially unsafe

The referee and / or authorised groundsmen will inspect the ground at least one and a half hours to kick off.

The home teams will notify the other team and advise the relevant FSC Competitions Contact (ie Bobby Mazevski for Community League on 0407284770 or David Ware for Women's on 0431 588 786) who will update the FSC Web page (Notice Board) if time permits depending on time of inspection.

Junior Competition

All Clubs

All clubs are responsible for inspecting grounds and where cancellation becomes effective due to wet weather, it shall be the responsibility of the secretary or appointed official of the Home Club to notify (by telephone) their opposition, referee co-ordinators, referee's and the FSC Junior Competition Coordinator David Ware on 0431 588 786 by 7:00 AM on match day or the previous evening.



Football South Coast:

Wet Weather Procedures and Communication to Members

Note Should this closure occur less than 24hr before the scheduled kick off of matches, notification of the above is by **telephone first** and a subsequent confirmation email is also to be sent by the relevant secretary/ appointed official.

Football South Coast will post the cancellation or rescheduled time of the game on the FSC Web Page (Notice Board) and advise i98fm as soon as advised.

Council Grounds – Advise from Local Government Authority

Upon advice from the relevant Local Government Authority (LGA) that the ground is closed Football South Coast will post the cancellation or rescheduled time of the game on the FSC Web Page (Notice Board) and advise i98fm as soon as advised.

Cancellation of All Junior Grounds

The FSC Junior Competition Coordinator shall cancel all grounds on a day if 15 Clubs have their grounds unavailable due to wet weather. The FSC Junior Competition Coordinator shall notify Clubs (by email or telephone) and the post the information on the FSC Web Page (Notice Board) and advise i98fm as soon as determined.

South Coast Wolves and Illawarra Stingrays

- Football NSW will advise the Referee Appointments Officer

Skills Acquisition and Regional League

- The FSC Technical directors will advise the Referee Appointments Officer

Please Note

It is the responsibility of members to regularly check the FSC Website Notice Board and listen to i98fm to obtain updates on the impacts of fixtures as a result of wet weather.

Appendix A: Guidelines in Decision Process

The following measures are to be used as a guide to assist clubs and referees in making a decision about ground not fit for safe play:

1. Surface water

Competition matches must be cancelled if there is substantial surface water visible on the field. The only exception to this would be if the area affected was small (less than 2 to 5m²), in a low usage/wear area and the rest of the ground is firm, and no other issues such as ground softness and poor grass cover are evident. Surface water means that the ground has reached saturation point and will be damaged very quickly if played on.



Football South Coast:

Wet Weather Procedures and Communication to Members

2. Ground softness

Competition matches must be cancelled if there is any sinking into the field when walking on it and this does not bounce back or if when standing still/walking water rises up to the surface. The only exception to this would be if the only area affected was small (less than 2 to 5m²), in a low usage/wear area and the rest of the field was firm and poor grass cover is not an additional issue. Water rising to the surface when walking on it means that the ground has reached saturation point and will be damaged very quickly if played on.

3. Amount of rainfall

Rainfall leading into match day should be used to guide decisions. If it has rained heavily or consistently leading up to match day then this should aid the decision to be made. Some grounds will take rain all week and be fine on the weekend while other grounds will have no rain all week and rain the night before an event and will need to be cancelled. Clubs and referees should take into consideration the rainfall during the week, the night before and the forecast for match day and where applicable the day after when making decisions.

4. Soil profile and drainage

Some fields naturally drain better than others; this has to do with the soil profile below the surface. Sand based fields or deep coal wash drain quicker and more effectively than those on natural ground. Clubs and referees should have a good idea of the drainage and amount of rainfall these grounds can take, and this should be considered when making decisions.

5. Grass cover

During the winter season grass cover can often get below 80% and be fine for play during dry weather. However, during wet weather if overall grass cover is below 80% then this ground is likely to wear more substantially under wet weather on match days on grounds with more grass cover. If a decision is made to play on wet ground with low grass cover, then this may cause irreparable damage to the ground

6. Amount of activity

Once all the above is assessed final consideration is to be given on how many matches the field will safely be able to host on match day.