

Procedures for Wet Weather Ground Closure

Outline:

The details outlined in this document explain the procedures taken into consideration in the determination of whether the ground is to be closed due to wet weather, or closed due to the potential for damage that may arise if used during wet weather.

The NDP Board as custodian of the facility, under the lease arrangement with Wollongong City Council (WCC), has the responsibility to maintain the facility in a "fit for use" state.

Procedure:

1. Hirer is to be made aware of this Wet Weather Procedure.
2. Two days prior to any booking, the hirer is to be advised of any potential for cancellation if weather is inclement, has been inclement or is predicted to be inclement prior to, or during the hire period.
3. If wet weather is encountered before the commencement of hire, the NDP Board is to determine at that time if the hire is to proceed, be cancelled or be modified.
4. If cancelled at that time, the hirer is able to break their hire contract and walk away without penalty.
5. If wet weather occurs during the hire, of sufficient quantity to cause concern to the playing surface, the NDP Board is to make a judgement call at that point.
6. The decision made is to be communicated to WCC Sports Field Co-ordinator.
7. If the decision is to cancel or modify the hire, then the decision must also be communicated to the hirer.
8. A refund, (or adjustment of invoice), minus administration fee, is to occur where the decision to cancel or modify an event affects the hire.

Factors to be taken into consideration when making a decision include:

- WCC is willing to do all within its power to ensure the facility is utilised to full potential.
- **For all Junior fixtures, ground closure will be automatic on WCC ground closures.**
- Wet weather of itself is not sufficient to close the ground. It may be the trigger to consider scaling back the number of matches for example.
- The potential for damage to the surface.
- The importance of the fixture / event.
- The timing of the fixture / event.
- The foreseeable reasonableness that using the ground will damage the surface.
- Prima face - if WCC have closed council grounds, the Board has a decision to make about NDP's availability - i.e. this would be considered a trigger for initiating NDP Wet Weather Procedures.
- WCC Sports Field Co-ordinator can also, at his discretion/judgment, call upon the board to instigate ground closure determination procedure.