



Football South Coast:

Wet Weather Procedures and Communication to Members – Version 1.4

Objective:

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Outline the process for determining postponements and cancellations for Men's Premiership, Community League, 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.

Clubs are also advised to refer to the relevant competition rules for further information on wet weather and rescheduling



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Men's Premiership (Premier League and District League)

A: Council Grounds – Wet weather closure

- i. When the relevant Local Government Authority (LGA) advises that the ground is closed, then the match will be postponed unless a Club chooses to use their bond (Shellharbour Council only).
- ii. If the LGA has deemed the ground to be 'open', games must be held unless there are exceptional circumstances. Exceptional circumstances include player safety and/or substantial damage to the field and must be approved by the referee.

B: Midweek Matches (including Friday)

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

- i. A field inspection shall be undertaken on the day of the game and the club will form an opinion on whether the pitch is fit and safe for matches to proceed on the following two points; (1) Player safety and (2) Substantial damage to the field.

If the Club is of the opinion that the ground is not playable and the FSC Competition Coordinator deems this to be a decision that should be reconsidered – an independent inspection will be performed on the ground by an FSC Men's Council delegate in consultation with the referee (if available).

- ii. If the First Grade referee is available on the day of the game, a ground inspection is to take place prior to 8.30am on the day of the game.
- iii. If the referee is unavailable to inspect the ground, they are to inform the FSC Competition Coordinator prior to 9.00am on the day of the game and the FSC Competition Co-ordinator will then organise the inspection of the ground
- iv. The FSC Competition Co-ordinator will contact the appointed Match Officials to advise the outcome of the inspection.
- v. The FSC Competition Coordinator will then determine if:
 1. Matches are to be postponed **or**
 2. Referee is required to carry out pitch inspection on Sunday (subject to ground availability) – Premier League Competition only.

Note: Inspection of Helensburgh, Picton completed by club.



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C: Saturday, Sunday, Public Holiday Matches

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

- i. A field inspection shall be undertaken 24 hours prior to or on the day of the game and the First Grade Referee and the club will form an opinion on whether the pitch is fit and safe for matches to proceed on the following two points; (1) Player safety and (2) Substantial damage to the field.
- ii. The First Grade Referee (or their nominee) is to Contact the club Secretary the day before the fixture to pre-arrange the inspection time
- iii. The First Grade match Referee (or their nominee) will inspect the ground in conjunction with Club officials and/or grounds person prior to 8:30am.
- iv. The First Grade Referee (or their nominee) will then advise:
 - a. the club how many (if any) matches can be played. Where only one game can be played, this will be First Grade.

Where only two games are able to be played the games played will be:
Premier League - 23's and First Grade.
District League – Youth Grade and First Grade.
(unless there are exceptional circumstances approved by the Competition Coordinator)
 - b. For Saturday Illawarra Premier League games – if the game is to be rescheduled for next day (ie Sunday)
- vi. The decision of the First Grade Referee (or their nominee) after consultation with the club representative on match day is final and clubs are expected to abide by this decision.
- vii. If the Club and the Referee do not agree on the decision after ground inspection, an independent inspection will be performed on the ground by an FSC Men's Council delegate in consultation with the referee. Directly following inspection, the club secretary / representative is to contact FSC Competition Coordinator of inspection decision who will advise impacted clubs by 9am on the match day morning.
- viii. The First Grade Referee (or their nominee) is then to contact the FSC Appointments Officer on 0447 073 836, and their fellow officials by 9:30am
- ix. Football South Coast will then:
 - advise the opposition club on the outcome of the inspection as soon as advised
 - Update the Wet Weather Tab on the FSC Facebook Page and the FSC Match Centre

Note: Inspection of Helensburgh, Picton completed by club.



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Summary of Roles and Responsibilities

Role	First Grade Referee (or nominee)	Club	FSC
1. Arrange Field Inspection with Club	Yes		
2. Ground Inspection	Yes	Yes	
3. Determine: - how many games will be played; OR - if the games are to be transferred to Sunday (for Saturday IPL games only)	Yes		
4. Contact FSC to advise of the outcome		Yes	
5. Contact Referee Appointments Officer and other match officials appointed	Yes		
6. Communicate outcome to opposition team			Yes
7. Update FSC Web Page (Wet Weather) and Match Centre			Yes

Rescheduling of Matches

Refer to Section 4.3 of the Competition Rules



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Community League Competitions

A: Council Grounds – Wet weather closure

When the relevant Local Government Authority (LGA) advises that the ground is closed then the match will be postponed unless a Club chooses to use their bond (Shellharbour Council only).

B: 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 prior to kick off and advise the Men's Competition Coordinator 0407 284 770 and FSC Referee Appointment Officer (0447 073 836) if the ground is not playable.

C: Upon advice of wet weather closure in Community League, the Competition Coordinator may

- i. Move the game to later in the weekend at the Home Club; or
- ii. will be moved to another time slot on an adjoining ground at the Home Club if available or;
- iii. Reverse the fixture if the Away Club's ground is available; or
- iv. Move the game to another venue (e.g. Ian McLennan Park) on the same day at a different time; or
- v. Cancel the whole round (i.e. Masters, if more than 70% of games are washed out)

D. FSC Responsibilities

Football South Coast will:

- advise the opposition club on the outcome of the inspection as soon as advised
- Update the Wet Weather Tab on the FSC Facebook Page and the FSC Match Centre

Rescheduling Games if match is not played

Refer to the Competition Rules



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Women' Competitions

A: Council Grounds – Wet weather closure

When the relevant Local Government Authority (LGA) advises that the ground is closed then the match will only proceed outlined in (C) below unless a Club chooses to use their bond (Shellharbour Council only).

B: 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 prior to kick off to determine if the ground is playable.

C: Home Club Responsibility - Upon advice of wet weather closure in Women's Competition

The HOME club must contact the AWAY club to advise that the ground is not playable.

The Fixture:

- (1) Will be transferred to an adjoining ground at the same venue at another time slot if the HOME Club advises this option; or
- (2) Will be reversed to the Away Team's ground if it is available, and the AWAY team advises this;
- (3) May be Transferred to another venue on the same day (e.g. Ian McLennan Park) (organized by either Club or Competition Coordinator_
- (4) Will be postponed

The HOME club must contact the Women's Coordinator on (0431 588786) and FSC Referee Appointment Officer (0447 073 836) and advise the outcome of the fixture.

D. FSC Responsibilities

Football South Coast will:

- Update notices on the FSC webpage and the FSC Match Centre

Rescheduling Games if match is not played

Refer to the Competition Rules



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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 Competition Coordinator by 7:00 AM on match day or the previous evening.

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.

Council Grounds – Advise from Local Government Authority

When the relevant Local Government Authority (LGA) advises that the ground is closed then the match will be postponed unless a Club chooses to use their bond (Shellharbour Council only).

Football South Coast will then:

- advise the opposition club on the outcome of the inspection as soon as advised.
- Update the Wet Weather Tab on the FSC WebPage and the FSC Match Centre

Notes:

1. Where a club ground is open, games shall take place at that venue.
2. Shellharbour City Council allow clubs with bonds to play if the club deems the ground playable.

Rescheduling – on the weekend

The Competition Coordinator may

- i. Move the game to later in the weekend at the Home Club; or
- ii. will be moved to another time slot on an adjoining ground at the Home Club if available or;
- iii. Reverse the fixture if the Away Club's ground is available; or
- iv. Move the game to another venue (eg Ian McLennan Park) on the same day at a different time

Rescheduling – Matches not played on the weekend

Refer to Competition Rule