



## **Football South Coast:**

### **Wet Weather Procedures and Communication to Members – Version 1.5**

#### **Objective:**

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Outline the process for determining postponements and cancellations for Men's and Women's Premiership, Men's and Women's Community League 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, Walking Football, School Holiday clinics and FSC Development Programs.

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



## Football South Coast:

### Wet Weather Procedures and Communication to Members – Version 1.5

#### Men's (Premier and District League) and Women's Premiership

##### **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 FSC or a 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 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 and only in the event Women's Premiership games are not schedule on that ground.
- v. In the event matches cannot be played, the FSC Competition Coordinator will update Dribl to automatically advise match and club officials and normal competition rules will apply in relation to rescheduling the fixture.

Note: Inspection of Helensburgh, Picton and Gerringong completed by club.



## Football South Coast:

### Wet Weather Procedures and Communication to Members – Version 1.5

#### 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 8:00am.
- 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:  
Women's and Men Premier League - Youth Grade and First Grade.  
Men's District League – Youth Grade and First Grade.  
(unless there are exceptional circumstances approved by the Competition Coordinator)
  - b. For Saturday Men's Premiership League games – if the game is to be rescheduled for next day (ie Sunday) only in the event Women's Premiership games are not schedule on that ground
- 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 delegate in consultation with the referee.
- viii. Directly following inspection, the referee is to **contact FSC Competition Coordinator of inspection decision who will advise impacted clubs by 8:30am on the match day morning.**
- ix. Football South Coast will then:
  - Update Dribl to advise all match officials and clubs
  - .

Note: Inspection of Gerringong, Helensburgh and Picton completed by club.

#### Summary of Roles and Responsibilities



**Football South Coast:**

**Wet Weather Procedures and Communication to Members – Version 1.5**

<b>Role</b>	<b>First Grade Referee (or nominee)</b>	<b>Club</b>	<b>FSC</b>
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/IDL games only)	Yes		
4. Contact FSC to advise of the outcome		Yes	
5. Update Dribl to communicate to match officials and clubs			Yes
6.			

Rescheduling of Matches

Refer to Section 4.3 of the Competition Rules



## Football South Coast:

### Wet Weather Procedures and Communication to Members – Version 1.5

#### Men's and Women's Community League Competitions

##### **A: Council Grounds – Wet weather closure**

The relevant Local Government Authority (LGA) may advise that ground(s) are closed. However, a Club may choose to use their bond (Shellharbour Council only) and play.

##### **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 by **8:30am** on the day of the fixture.

##### **C: Opposition Ground Open and Available**

If the opposition club venue is open and available then, the game must be played at that venue providing that game times remain the same unless both teams mutually agree on a change in time.

##### **D: Upon advice of wet weather closure in Community League Competitions in (A) or (B) above**

The Home Club **by 9:00am** must

- (i) have contacted the opposition club in the first instance to investigate the option of reversing the match (C) above and
- (ii) advised the Competition Coordinator with the outcome.

The Competition Coordinator may also

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

##### **E. FSC Responsibilities**

Football South Coast will then:

- Update Dribl which will advise all match officials and teams;

Rescheduling Games if a match is not played.

Refer to the Competition Rules



## Football South Coast:

### Wet Weather Procedures and Communication to Members – Version 1.5

#### Junior Competition

##### All Clubs

##### **A: Council Grounds – Wet weather closure**

The relevant Local Government Authority (LGA) may advise that ground(s) are closed. However, a Club may choose to use their bond (Shellharbour Council only) and play.

##### **B: For any private, leased grounds or where LGA grounds are declared open but potentially unsafe**

All clubs are responsible for inspecting grounds and determine if the grounds are suitable to play.

##### **C: Wet Weather closure – Midweek or Friday Matches**

Where cancellation becomes effective due to wet weather in (A) or (B) above, it shall be the responsibility of the secretary or appointed official of the Home Club to have informed the Competition Coordinator by **4:00pm** on match day. The Home Club is also to contact the opposition of the first set of games if the decision is made late afternoon on match day.

***Note: Matches from Friday night could be moved back and played on Saturday or Sunday.***

##### **D: Wet Weather closure – Saturday or Sunday Matches**

Where cancellation becomes effective due to wet weather in (A) or (B) above, it shall be the responsibility of the secretary or appointed official of the Home Club to have informed the Competition Coordinator by **7:00 AM** on match day or the previous evening. The Home Club is also to contact the opposition of the first set of games if the decision is made in the morning on match day.

##### **E: 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

##### **F: Wet Weather closure – During the day of Fixtures**

If matches have been played during the day and it becomes necessary to cancel the remaining matches, it shall be the responsibility of the secretary or appointed official of the Home Club to inform the Competition Coordinator and the opposition clubs ASAP.



## **Football South Coast:**

### **Wet Weather Procedures and Communication to Members – Version 1.5**

#### **G: FSC Responsibilities**

Football South Coast will :

- Update Dribl which will advise all match officials and teams of postponement/cancellation or game change in (C), (D) and (E).

Drible may not be updated in the case of (F) on the day and clubs need to contact their opposition.

#### **H: Rescheduling – Matches not played on the weekend**

Refer to Competition Rules