Football South Coast:

Wet Weather Procedures and Communication to Members – Version 1.6

Objective:

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Outline the process for determining postponements and cancellations Winter 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.

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Premier Leagues

A: Grounds – FSC - Wet weather Closure

FSC may in its absolute discretion postpone or cancel matches at any field if there has been significant rain during the week leading up to a fixture and it is very unlikely that the field will be available for those fixtures.

B: 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.

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.

C: 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, no later than 3:30pm 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. The Club must inform the FSC coordinator no later than 4:00pm.

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. The FSC Competition Coordinator will then determine if:

1. Matches are to be postponed **or**
2. Ground is inspected **or**
3. Game is moved to another venue.

iii. 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.

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D: Saturday, Sunday, Public Holiday Matches

<u>For any private, leased grounds or where LGA grounds are declared open but potentially unsafe</u>

i. FSC may determine in its opinion when rain has occurred during the week that the game is postponed.

ii. Where a field inspection is required, it may be undertaken on the day before or by 8:00am on the day of the match. The First Grade Referee (or their nominee) 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.

iii. The First Grade Referee (or their nominee) is to Contact the club Secretary the day before the fixture to pre-arrange the inspection time.

iv. The First Grade Referee (or their nominee) will then advise the club how many (if any) matches can be played on Match Day.

Where only one game can be played, this will be First Grade.

Where only two games are able to be played and there are three grades impacted, then the games played will be Youth Grade and First Grade. (unless there are exceptional circumstances approved by the Competition Coordinator)

A further inspection may be required to confirm the status of the ground at an agreed time on match day.

iv. Clubs are expected to abide by the decision of the First Grade Referee (or their nominee) after consultation with the club representative.

v. If the Club and the Referee do not agree on the decision after ground inspection, an independent inspection/review will be performed on the ground by an FSC delegate in consultation with the referee.

vi. In the event that no matches can be played following an inspection then

a. if the ground is playable and available on the following day for some or all of the fixtures then the fixture(s) will be rescheduled (following the convention in iv above) or

b. the Home Club explores if some or all of the fixture(s) (following the convention in iv above) can be reversed to the opposition venue.

vii. The Home club advises the Competition Coordinator by 8:30am on match day morning of the outcome of the inspection and match status.

viii. Football South Coast will then update Dribl to advise all match officials and clubs.

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

Summary of Roles and Responsibilities

Role	**FG 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	Yes		
- if the games are to be transferred to Sunday		Yes	
- if games are being reversed		Yes	
4. Contact FSC to advise of the outcome		Yes	
5. Update Dribl to communicate to match officials and clubs			Yes

Rescheduling of Matches

Refer to Premier League Competition Rules

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All Age and Masters

A: Council Grounds – Wet weather closure

The relevant Local Government Authority (LGA) may advise that ground(s) are closed.

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

The authorised club representative will inspect the ground by **7:00am** 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 within 1 hour of the scheduled kick-off time unless both teams mutually agree on a change in time.

D: Upon advice of wet weather closure in (A) or (B) above

The Home Club **by 8:00am** 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 in exceptional circumstances

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

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

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Junior Competition

All Clubs

A: Council Grounds – Wet weather closure

The relevant Local Government Authority (LGA) may advise that ground(s) are closed.

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.

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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).

- Dribl 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