



## **Football South Coast:**

### **Wet Weather Procedures and Communication to Members – Version 1.1**

#### **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.



## **Football South Coast:**

### **Wet Weather Procedures and Communication to Members – Version 1.1**

#### **FSC Under 18's**

The home club shall follow the wet weather procedure which is relevant to the FSC Council they belong to.

FSC shall reschedule any competition match postponed due to wet weather, providing the match has a bearing on the semi-final positions.

#### **FSC Under 18 Competition - Clubs for 2016**

##### **Men's Council**

Albion Park White Eagles, Bulli, Coniston, Cringila, Helensburgh, Kemblawarra Fury, Port Kembla, South Coast United, Tarrawanna, Wests Illawarra, Wollongong Olympic, Wollongong United, Woonona

##### **Junior Council**

Coledale, Corrimal, Kiama, Thirroul.



## Football South Coast:

### Wet Weather Procedures and Communication to Members – Version 1.1

#### Men's Premiership

##### Council Grounds

- i. Upon advice from the relevant Local Government Authority (LGA) that the ground is closed.
- 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.
- iii. Games scheduled midweek or Saturday will be rescheduled for Sunday (subject to availability and ground condition), with the exception of District League.
- iv. If games are unable to be played that round, the clubs are expected to put in writing within three (3) business days the rescheduled fixture time which must be held within twenty-one (21) days of the scheduled date (for fixtures prior to Round 19). There may be some consideration where clubs already have a heavy schedule over the following weeks. The FSC Competition Coordinator will determine the appropriate timeframe for the rescheduled fixtures for games postponed after Round 18.

Should no correspondence be received within this timeframe, the FSC Competition Coordinator will reschedule the fixture at an appropriate time and venue, which may be neutral, at the cost of the home club.

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

##### **Midweek Games (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 main game 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, he is to inform Bobby Mazeovski on 0407284770 prior to 9.00am on the day of the game and the FSC Men's Competition Co-ordinator will then organise the inspection of the ground
- iv. The FSC Men's Competition Co-ordinator will contact the appointed Match Officials to advise the outcome of the inspection.



## Football South Coast:

### Wet Weather Procedures and Communication to Members – Version 1.1

- v. The FSC Competition Coordinator will then determine if:
  - 1. Matches are to be postponed for weekend **or**
  - 2. Referee is required to carry out pitch inspection on Sunday (subject to ground availability) – Premier League Competition only.
- vi. If games are unable to be played that round, the clubs are expected to put in writing within three (3) business days the rescheduled fixture time which must be held within twenty-one (21) days of the scheduled date (for fixtures prior to the Round 19). The FSC Competition Coordinator will determine the appropriate timeframe for the rescheduled fixtures after Round 18.

Should no correspondence be received within this timeframe, the FSC Competition Coordinator will reschedule the fixture at an appropriate venue, which may be neutral, at the cost of the home club.

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

Note: Inspection of Helensburgh, Picton completed by club.

### Saturday Games

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.
- ii. The main game Referee is to Contact the club Secretary the day before the fixture to pre arrange the inspection time where games haven't already been postponed.
- iii. The first grade match Referee (or his nominee) will inspect the ground in conjunction with Club officials and/or groundsman prior to 8:30am.

For U18 fixtures, the Club Secretary to make a decision by no later than 7am on match day.

- iv. The main game Referee (or his nominee) will then advise 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 for District League the games played will be Youth Grade and First Grade. The decision of the match official after consultation with the club representative on match day is final and clubs are expected to abide by this decision.
- v. 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 by 9am on Saturday morning.
- vi. 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



## Football South Coast:

### Wet Weather Procedures and Communication to Members – Version 1.1

- vii. 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.
- viii. If games are postponed on Saturday, they will automatically be rescheduled for the following day (Sunday- Premier League Competition only) pending ground availability and if in the referee's opinion the pitch may be right for play if no more rain is forecast. The referee shall also decide on how many matches (if any) can be played on this day.
- ix. If games are unable to be played that round, the clubs are expected to put in writing within three (3) business days the rescheduled fixture time which must be held within twenty-one (21) days of the scheduled date (for fixtures prior to Round 19). The FSC Competition Coordinator will determine the appropriate timeframe for the rescheduled fixtures after Round 18.

Should no correspondence be received within this timeframe, the FSC Competition Coordinator will reschedule the fixture at an appropriate venue, which may be neutral, at the cost of the home club.

Note: Inspection of Helensburgh, Picton completed by club.

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

### Sunday and Public Holiday's games

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. The main game Referee is to Contact the club Secretary the day before the fixture to pre arrange the inspection time
- iii. The first grade match Referee (or his nominee) will inspect the ground in conjunction with Club officials and/or groundsman prior to 8:30am.

For U18 fixtures, the Club Secretary to make a decision by no later than 7am on match day.

- iv. The main game Referee (or his nominee) will then advise 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 for District League the games played will be Youth Grade and First Grade. The decision of the match official after consultation with the club representative on match day is final and clubs are expected to abide by this decision.



## **Football South Coast:**

### **Wet Weather Procedures and Communication to Members – Version 1.1**

- v. Directly following inspection, the club secretary / representative is to contact FSC Competition Coordinator Bobby Mazevski on 0407284770 of inspection decision who will advise impacted clubs by 9am on Sunday morning.
- vi. 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
- vii. 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
- viii. If games are unable to be played that round, the clubs are expected to put in writing within three (3) business days the rescheduled fixture time which must be held within twenty-one (21) days of the scheduled date (for fixtures prior to Round 19). The FSC Competition Coordinator will determine the appropriate timeframe for the rescheduled fixtures after Round 18.

Should no correspondence be received within this timeframe, the FSC Competition Coordinator will reschedule the fixture at an appropriate venue, which may be neutral, at the cost of the home club.

Note: Inspection of Helensburgh, Picton completed by club.

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

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

#### Fixture Reversals

In the event of fixture reversals – the two clubs are required to come to an agreement and advise FSC competition coordinator (ie Bobby Mazevski on 0407284770) who will advise the Referee Appointments Officer.



## **Football South Coast:**

### **Wet Weather Procedures and Communication to Members – Version 1.1**

#### **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 (Wet Weather Tab) as soon as advised

It is the responsibility of the clubs to check the FSC and Council website to determine the status of grounds. Wollongong City Council grounds are updated as inspections occur throughout the weekend.

##### **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 (Wet Weather Tab) if time permits depending on time of inspection.

##### **Fixture Reversals**

In the event of fixture reversals – the two clubs are required to come to an agreement and advise FSC competition coordinators (ie Bobby Mazevski for Community League on 0407284770 or David Ware for Women's on 0431 588 786) and the Referee Appointments Officer on 0417 206 508 who will advise impacted referee's.

##### **Rescheduling Games**

For any games postponed due to wet weather, both clubs must determine a suitable fixture date no later than 3 weeks from fixture postponement date. Both clubs must advise the Competition coordinators (ie Bobby Mazevski for Community League on 0407284770 or David Ware for Women's on 0431 588 786) for approval of the revised fixture date within 5 working days.



## Football South Coast:

### Wet Weather Procedures and Communication to Members – Version 1.1

#### 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.

**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 (Ground Status) 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 (Wet Weather Tab) and advise i98fm as soon as advised.

##### 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.
3. The Competition Coordinator may reverse fixtures and/or reschedule games on the weekend.
4. Junior Competition Rules and Procedures outline how games are rescheduled which are not played.





## Football South Coast:

### Wet Weather Procedures and Communication to Members – Version 1.1

#### Wollongong 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 Wet Weather Tab and listen to i98fm to obtain updates on the impacts of fixtures as a result of wet weather**



## **Football South Coast:**

### **Wet Weather Procedures and Communication to Members – Version 1.1**

#### 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 5m<sup>2</sup>), 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.

##### **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 5m<sup>2</sup>), 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.