

Wet weather sports ground closure

Reason for Sports Ground closures

Council may close playing fields for use when:

- Undertaking any repair, maintenance or works on or immediately adjacent to the fields.
- During and following wet weather when the turf and subsurface is particularly vulnerable to damage by users.
- Special event requirements.

When Council closes sports grounds due to wet weather, it is aiming for a reasonable balance between the needs of the sports community to conduct their sport and the damage this use does to the playing fields.

The closure of fields is a tool intended to maximize the availability and quality of the field for all users throughout the year.

Managing the grounds in this way will minimize the need for major ground refurbishments and provide long term sustainability.

Wet Weather Sports Ground Status

There are 3 options for sports grounds status, **open, closed and conditional**.

OPEN- The field is open for all sports competitions, training, school and community use.

CLOSED- The field is closed for all sports competitions, training, school and community use.

CONDITIONAL Seasonal/Annual Hirer- The field is closed for use unless certain conditions are met (see below). If these conditions are met the seasonal/annual hirer (excluding schools and casual hirers) has the authority to use the ground for training and competitions.

CONDITIONAL Schools/Casual Hirer- The field is closed for use unless your booking qualifies as competition games, interschool competitions and state competitions/carnivals. The hirer must meet their own sports/activities safety assessment requirements which allows the sport/activity to go ahead.

Conditions Determining Use of Grounds under Conditional closure Status.

To allow the use of the ground under a conditional closure, the seasonal/annual hirer assessing the ground must meet the following conditions,

- All seasonal/annual hirers must complete and submit the Conditional Use Checklist to proceed with ground use [Wet Weather Conditional Use Checklist \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/wet-weather-conditional-use-checklist)
- Meet their own sports/activities safety assessment requirements which allows the sport/activity to go ahead

Please note it is up to the seasonal/annual hirer to make a decision on use, taking into consideration the condition of the field, any damage that may be caused and duty of care to its participants.

Consequence of Decision

If the decision to use the grounds is made under these provisions of conditional closure, and following inspection by Councils staff, it is deemed the grounds have been unreasonably damaged as a result, Council reserves the right to recover the costs of the repair and close the ground for use until repairs are completed.

Council's determination of Status

The status of the sports grounds is determined by Parks Operations staff based on the following:

- The current condition of the ground on the morning of inspection
- The BOM forecast until the next status review

Determination of status is made in the morning of each day from Monday to Friday. Determinations for the weekend (including long weekends) are made on Friday morning.

Once the field status has been determined and published on the Website, it will not be changed until the next earliest update, (i.e. 2pm the next day) even if there is a significant change in the weather conditions.

Communication of Status

Wet weather field status is updated and published by **2pm** and communicated through,

- The wet weather Sport Ground Status page on Councils website
- Emails are sent to the sporting clubs, associations and schools
- A recorded message is updated on Councils wet weather hot line