



SPORTS GROUND CLOSURE PROCEDURES

The procedures below remain in place for all seasonal and casual hirers of Council managed sports grounds

1. Where necessary, ground closures for Council-managed grounds continue to take place from Monday – Thursday inclusive, and are advertised on the Coffs Harbour City Council website by 3pm each day. It is the user groups' responsibility to check the website for notice of ground closures. Should grounds be closed during the week, alternate arrangements need to be made by user groups for training purposes.
2. On training nights, user groups agree to rotate training areas on playing fields to ensure that one area of the ground does not become overly worn. To protect the grounds for match play, it is the responsibility of team coaches/officials to ensure repeated use of particular areas for repetitive drills does not occur. Good management of this field rotation will help to enhance the durability of grounds during extended wet weather periods.
3. On Friday afternoon from 3.00pm, the Coffs Harbour City Council website will show that all grounds for the weekend are 'OPEN - decision on weekend games to be made on game day'. On Saturday and Sunday morning, it will be determined by the user group and match officials (referees) if the grounds are fit for play and they must advise their teams accordingly. The user groups/match officials are solely responsible for inspecting the grounds and making appropriate decisions to ensure the safety of all involved. This information is to be noted on the ground check documentation that officials (referees) complete prior to games commencing. A copy of this should be made available to the Coffs Harbour City Council's Stadium and Major Events section, if requested.
4. In the event that the scheduled games do take place on the weekend and excess damage does occur, an invoice will be sent to any group who used the ground for any repairs required to return the ground to a playable state for the upcoming season.
5. If excessive rain has fallen leading up to the weekend and it is clear that grounds are unfit for play, then we may nominate to close the grounds for the entire weekend (this would be in extreme cases such as flooding), and the website will be updated accordingly.
6. The purpose of this procedure is to give grounds a better chance of being open for weekend fixtures. Regrettably, they may be closed for training to allow for this. Any user groups not exercising due care will risk grounds being closed during their season, until such time as the damaged field area has recovered. Repeated offences may see the seasonal field allocation withdrawn.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT
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