



POLICY STATEMENT

SPORTING FIELD CLOSURE

POLICY ADOPTED: 15 May 2012

Policy Objective:

This policy document is intended to apply in situations where Bland Shire Council's sportsgrounds are affected by weather conditions, and the decision to play or train on sportsgrounds adversely affected may cause damage to the playing surface or the safety of the users. For the purpose of this policy, damage is defined as impact on the field that are beyond normal wear and tear.

Policy Statement:

This policy allows for the implementation of a standardised process for assessing the suitability of grounds for playing when impacted by weather conditions with direct involvement of Bland Shire Council, to increase the transparency of the process for all users and stakeholders thus assisting to manage the impacts for other organised and passive usage, address the risk management and safety of all users.

Procedure:

- Responsibility for determining ground closures including what areas and for what period remain the responsibility of Bland Shire Council and this decision will be made, where possible, two days prior to the activity
- Bland Shire Councils' ground maintenance staff forward information on ground conditions to the Recreational Services Forman
- Recreational Services Forman decides, on information received, whether to close or leave the ground open.
- The Bookings Officer (Administration Officer – Engineering Services) will contact nominated sport and user representatives to discuss availability of grounds.
- No sporting club, school or user group have the authority to approve use of sporting grounds when Bland Shire Council has closed the grounds.
- Sporting clubs, schools or user groups using closed fields will be liable for the full cost of repairs.

A decision by Bland Shire Council to close the sportsground will be based mainly on:

- Safety and the potential for injury to users.
- The sport played and the potential for damage to the playing service.
- The weather, during prolonged and / or extreme weather conditions.
- The condition of the ground when inspected

Note: Irrespective of the above Bland Shire Council may, at any time, withdraw the use of the ground or part thereof. (ie, if it is deemed to be unplayable).

Penalty – failure to abide by ground closure ruling

The procedure for fining sporting clubs, schools or user groups shall be as follows:

Council will:

- Inspect and photograph the damaged grounds.
- Establish culpability in consultation with, the sporting club, school or user group.
- Determine the fine based on the cost to restore the facility.
- Issue a fine in writing to the offending facility hirer.

If the fine is not paid the offending, sporting club, school or user group will not be allocated any future use of Bland Shire Councils facilities.

Note: In some instances where damage to the ground is excessive Bland Shire Council may close the facility to enable necessary remediation works to be undertaken.

4. Dispute Resolution

If there is dispute with regard to the closure of a ground, the sporting club, school or user group will refer the dispute to the General Manager of Bland Shire Council, in writing for determination. The General Managers decision shall be final.

Authorisation:

Status	Committee	N/A	
	Manex	N/A	
Owner	Director Engineering Services		
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Superceded Policy			
Date of Adoption/ Amendment	Revision Number	Minute Number	Review Date
15 May 2012	0		

Related Council Policy / Procedure