

## **RRC Inclement Weather Field Closure Guidelines**

In order to keep your fields safe, open, and meet the standard for high quality fields, RRC Recreation Services has set guidelines for inclement weather and team sports playing on wet fields.

Experience has shown that most of the turf damage to your field(s) occurs with field overuse or use during inclement weather, especially in early spring and late fall (snow). Periods of wet weather, prolonged rain or heavy downpours combined with field use will cause irreparable damage to the turf. As with natural turf fields warm weather early in the spring may result in fields being free of snow and appear playable. However, at this time they are not officially open or bookable, but may be used casually by users assuming all liability.

In order to keep this damage to a minimum and ensure play safe conditions, fields may be closed during inclement weather. This also reduces repair costs and the potential for the field to be out of service for extended lengths of time.

Whenever inclement weather occurs, Recreation Services staff will visit the fields and assess the turf/field conditions using the following criteria:

- *The amount of precipitation that has occurred.*
- *The presence of standing water on the field.*
- *Drainage capabilities of the field.*
- *Is the field SAFE to play on?*
- *What kind and how much damage could occur if the fields were to remain open for the event?*
- *How many field closures have there been recently?*
- *The time of year and the cumulative amount of stress on the field.*
- *Are there any "must play" events that cannot be postponed?*

Once an assessment has been made Recreation Services staff and then, based on the above criteria, a decision is made on whether to open or close the fields.

After Staff reach a decision, updates will be provided to the rental group. Note: If the weather is changeable prior to the update, the decision to play or not will be left to the discretion\* of the user. The user will be entirely responsible for all damages to all fields adversely affected by their decision.

In an attempt to have as little impact on your event as possible we have built in some degree of flexibility within the process. This could include, closing only one of the fields or user discretion when feasible.

*\*User discretion empowers the user to make a common sense decision on whether or not to cancel an event on their field. We ask that if there is any standing water on the field or sports play will cause turf damage, postpone and re-schedule your event. If damage occurs as a result of a user decision to play, the user will be held responsible for all repair costs and may also have their booking privileges revoked. Please notify Recreation Services the next working day if you have cancelled.*