



Wet Weather Policy 2016

AFL Sydney Juniors requires a Wet Weather Policy that enables maximum participation when inclement weather impacts on the capacity to operate a full Round of football.

This policy includes:

- The elements and structure of the AFLSJ Wet Weather Website (wetweathercheck.com), which underpins the Policy as the Central Communication point for determining Ground availability.
- The processes of maintaining the Administration of the wetweathercheck.com, including the determination of relocating matches where able.
- The necessary processes and timelines for Club nominees to indicate the status of a Ground i.e. either Open or Closed.
- The process and timing of matches relocated by System Administrators.
- The criteria for determining when a general washout of a Round results in the Round being abandoned.

The Wet Weather Round

Each Region provides in the season fixture a weekend/round where washed out games can be rescheduled and allocated accordingly. In 2016, the wet weather round is July 2nd / 3rd. Such decisions require the signoff of the Regional Committee.

The Website (key elements of structure)

- Access

There are essentially 3 levels of access to the website, from the broad general community to the Club and System Administrators. The latter two requiring password access.

- Venue / Club Search

From the first page it is possible to search for a Club and or a Ground in a number of ways and from each you can freely move from one to the other.

- Information displayed

Key Club information on Ground Locations and the Status of each Grounds can be easily identified. Much of the data is configurable by the Club. Each Ground has identified lock times which allow, a Club to determine their own Ground status from their Council and update for all those likely to attend the venue on the coming Match day.

Club Administrator

Each of the Club(s) have nominated person (s) with the responsibility to update the status of a Ground, they are allocated, in accordance with different rules that apply to the different venues. There are over fifty Grounds with a number of rules, reflective of Wet Weather Policies of more than thirty local Councils. Generous lockout times for each, sometimes on a day by day basis, provide ample opportunity for a Ground status to be updated and where required for the System Administrators to also relocate games.

Following the previous weekend's Rounds, all Ground status is system reset to Open TBC. A subsequent enquiry on a specific Ground will indicate when each of the Lockout times and Days are. If a Ground is set as Closed by the Club Administrator a comment may be added. However any reference to games being relocated will be detailed by the System Administrator so that Footyweb Match Fixtures can reflect same.

Lockout times referred to on the Ground page are the latest times for Club Administrators to update their Ground's status, to either Open or Closed, before the system locks, by default on Open. Changes after these times can only be effected by System Administrators.

The Club Administrator also has the capacity to place some additional Club information relevant to their venues or match day operations, on the website for all to see.

System Administrator

For the System Administrator the following is provided:

- Ability to be able to add, change or delete Club Administrators, Grounds or Clubs
- As a result of Ground closures, a System Administrator can, where able, relocate matches, update Footyweb fixtures and utilise a Moved status for a Ground. All stakeholders, where games have been relocated to a new location will be able to view the updated match day fixture through a link and also any comment added by the System Administrator and match times accordingly.
- A single indicator that the Round has been washed out completely (abandoned). This does not preclude the Regional Committee from rescheduling such to a later wet weather round.
- To be able to complete all the functions of a Club Administrator, as required.

Any matches relocated for a weekend will only be completed on the Friday prior to a Round. All such changes are entered into footyweb by 6.30pm on the Friday.

Abandonment of a Round Criteria - Washouts

The perennial issue that Regions are subjected to each year, is where the weather conditions leading up to a Round mean mass ground closures across the Competitions. The overriding philosophy should always be to not abandon a total round, where it can be avoided. However a call has to be made from time to time, hence the need for at least one wet weather round.

To allow a minimum number of matches to proceed for competition points and the impacts that flow from that is unfair and Clubs with the fortunate position of better facilities have a number of unfair advantages. Accordingly if more than 80% of scheduled competition matches cannot proceed then the official outcome will be a round abandonment, on that date.

The spirit of this rule is not to significantly disadvantage those teams or players that don't get a chance to play when only a small number of games are possible.

Accordingly in those cases where match can proceed due to ground availability Clubs are encouraged to still proceed with a match, but not for points and not for Association Best & Fairest votes. In the event that the abandoned Round is rescheduled those teams would be required to play each other again, this time for Competition points.

Re-scheduling of games

Clubs wanting to reschedule a washed out game, must work within the AFL SJ By-laws. The ultimate decision to re-schedule a game sits with the Regional Committee.

Critical Success factors

- Timing - Within the process it is critical that time expectations on any rescheduling or relocation of matches is completed within schedule and that Footyweb is updated accordingly. In addition each Club /Venue have times nominated after which enquiries on the status of grounds can be confirmed by any stakeholder.
- In concert with LGA policy changes – In 2016 with the pending mergers of LGA's it will be important to ensure any changes in policy from any given LGA is reflected on the website quickly.
- Education – Clearly spelling out all the operations, timings and processes to all stakeholders in our football community will ensure that all Participants and Volunteers are appropriately informed, minimising the confusion and duplication of communication that is associated with the effects of bad weather.

Future Directions

Beyond the initial stage of the introduction of a Wet Weather Website, planned enhancements going forward may include:

- A snapshot of match day of a competition.
- Team Registration for auto advice of Ground Closures via sms/email.
- Management of Grounds for Training.
- Access via an APP.