



# NORTHERN SUBURBS FOOTBALL

EST. 1957

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## NSPD13A - Wet Weather Policy

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### Introduction

NSFA Ltd. hires fields from 5 different councils for training and play, as well as some schools. Each council operates differently in closing venues due to inclement weather. The staff of NSFA Ltd. consult extensively with council staff when there is inclement weather to determine whether any natural-grass fields need to be closed to avoid damage to the surface and exposing our participants to potential harm.

### Training

- All councils will decide on whether to close grounds and advise its stakeholders of the status by 2:45pm.
- If a council closes a ground(s) for training this overrides any NSFA decision.
- If a council leaves a ground(s) open NSFA Ltd. may close that ground(s) in the best interests of the competition. In this case, the NSFA Ltd. directive overrides any Council status.
- Clubs may also close a ground(s) in the best interest of the competition and their club. In this case, the club must notify Paul Orgad ([facilities@nsfa.asn.au](mailto:facilities@nsfa.asn.au)) so that the ground can be listed on the Wet Weather message.
- The NSFA office staff will post notification on the NSFA website at [nsfa.asn.au](http://nsfa.asn.au) by 3:00pm and by link on the Northern Suburbs Football Association Facebook page.

### Weekend Matches

- Lane Cove, North Sydney and Willoughby councils will decide whether to close grounds or leave them open by 2:00pm on Friday. The decision will either apply for the Saturday only or for Saturday and Sunday. North Sydney and Willoughby may update the status on Sunday morning at 7:00am on their respective wet weather lines.
- If Hornsby council close grounds they will generally do so for Saturday only. They then leave the decision on Sunday play to the hirer. Any decision by Hornsby council is made by 2:00pm on Friday.
- Ku-ring-gai council rarely closes grounds for weekend play. Council ground staff prepares a report on each ground in the LGA by 2:00pm on Friday with recommendations on whether play is possible. NSFA staff are guided by these recommendations.
- If a council closes its ground for matches this overrides any NSFA decision.
- If a council leaves a ground(s) open NSFA may close that ground(s) in the best interests of the competition. In this case, the NSFA directive overrides any Council status.

- If a ground(s) is left open and further rain occurs overnight on Friday or Saturday, the dressing club may close a ground(s) if it deems it unfit for play. Please notify NSFA so that the ground can be listed as closed on the wet weather message.
- The referee of the game has an obligation to abandon a match at any time and to close a ground(s) if he/she considers that the ground conditions endanger the safety of participants.
- NSFA will post notification on the NSFA website at [nsfa.asn.au](http://nsfa.asn.au) by 5:00pm on Friday and/or Saturday and by link on the Northern Suburbs Football Association Facebook page.

### **Contravening a wet weather message**

Clubs and individuals must abide by the Wet Weather message provided by NSFA Ltd. on its website. The consequences of using a ground that has been closed are:

- Clubs are financially responsible for any damage caused. Cost to be determined by Council (initial and long-term repair).
- Council reserves the right to withdraw use of playing fields by repeat offenders or instigators of excessive damage).
- Council can close grounds under extreme circumstances (safety, asset protection).
- NSFA Ltd. may instigate action under NSFA Regulations.
- The result of any match played on a ground that was advised as closed will become null and void.

### **Guidelines**

Training or play is likely to cause damage to the playing surface if certain characteristics are exhibited. These include but are not limited to:

- Surface water present;
- Water rises to the surface when walking across the surface (soil saturation);
- Surface is slippery to walk on, or grass surface is easily dislodged;
- Heavy or constant rain occurs immediately prior to or during training or play.