

SPORT FIELD CLOSURE

Effective Date: December 13, 2016

Last Revised: December 8, 2020

1. Policy Statement

To facilitate safe and sustainable usage of sports fields within the City of Pitt Meadows, they will be monitored regularly and when conditions require fields will be closed from usage.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure maximum use of the playing fields with minimum maintenance downtime, reducing costs to taxpayers and involving field users in the decision making and accountability for responsible field use.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all sports fields in Pitt Meadows.

4. Policy

Sports fields will be monitored regularly by Parks staff or the contractor responsible for sports fields, and when conditions require, they will close the field. Field closures will be posted on the website & notification will be sent to subscribing field users. When fields have not been closed by staff, user groups will be responsible to decide on game days whether fields are playable (user discretion).

Any play causing damage beyond fair wear will result in fines and suspensions as determined by the Director responsible for sports fields or their designate, and withdrawal booking privileges for the following season until damage repairs have been paid.

4.1 Definitions

In this policy,

- (a) **Field Open** means the field has been inspected by parks staff and is considered to be in a safe and playable condition. Should weather conditions deteriorate and the field becomes soggy or has evidence of standing water on the surface, the game should be postponed or cancelled by the coach, club representative or referee.
- (b) **User Discretion** means the field has been inspected by Parks staff who consider the field to be safe and useable on the day of the inspection, however they have some concerns that the weather conditions may change prior to game day, and that games played during inclement weather conditions may be detrimental to the field for the balance of the season. This will provide the coaches with an opportunity to make a judgment call on the day of the game to allow the games to be played if the field condition is good, and ensure that games are not played if there is evidence of standing water on the field, frost, snow, or if there is heavy rain on the day of the game.
- (c) **Field Closed** means the field has been inspected and Parks staff have determined that there may be safety issues or damage could result if games are played, or have closed the field due to extreme weather conditions, excessive wear, repairs, to provide a rest period for the field, or until they have suitable weather conditions to carry out the required repairs on the field. A field that has been closed may only be reopened by a Parks representative.
- (d) **Field Condition Reports** means it is the responsibility of the coaches and club representatives to check the email status updates to determine if the field they have been assigned is open for play, and for any special conditions that they need to be aware of regarding the playability of the field.
 - i. Fields will be monitored regularly by parks staff: damage beyond fair wear will be assessed by the Director responsible for sports fields and the sport organization or independent group responsible will be billed for the repairs.

- ii. Any team who violates this policy repeatedly, may have their play and practice privileges suspended for a period of time to be determined at the discretion of the Director overseeing sports fields.
- iii. Should any club feel they have been treated unfairly they may appeal the decision in an appeal to the Director.

4.2 Roles and Responsibilities

- i. *Staff or the Contractor Responsible for Sports Fields* - To assess fields for conditions that would result in unreasonable damage to the fields and post accordingly.
- ii. *User Groups* - When fields have not been closed by staff or the contractor responsible, user groups are responsible to decide on game days whether fields are playable without causing unreasonable damage.

5. Related Policies

Seasonal Sports Field Allocation, P125 (PLS Commission Policy)