



# Wet Weather Policy

17/2/2022

Excessive wet weather may result in ground closures or the cancellation of football activities due to the following reasons:

- the endangerment of player safety due to dangerous pitch conditions
- potential damage to sports grounds

This document only covers ground closures due to excessive rain. For other meteorological events such as hail and lightning, please consult Belnorth's Extreme Weather Policy.

## **Weekday (Training) Ground Closures**

ACT Sportsgrounds make decisions on whether grounds are open on weekdays for training. They inspect fields in the morning, then display this information on their home page and Facebook page:

- [ACT Sportsgrounds home page](#)
- [Facebook](#)

Belnorth will also endeavour to share this information on its social media channels:

- [Facebook](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [Twitter](#)

Capital Football may also make announcements regarding weekday ground closures on their website or social media channels:

- [Inclement Weather page](#)
- [Facebook](#)

- [Instagram](#)
- [Twitter](#)

If grounds are open but coaches and managers still have concerns about the safety of the playing surface, they can decide whether to proceed with football activities. As a guide, please consult the Pitch Inspection section below.

### **Weekend (Game) Ground Closures**

On weekends, depending on the circumstances, the following authorities will decide on ground closures:

- Home club officials
- Senior team coaches/managers
- ACT Sportsgrounds
- Privately run venue operators
- Capital Football (for cluster venues)
- Match referee

Members should consult the following channels for ground closure announcements:

- [Capital Football Inclement Weather page](#)
- [Belnorth Facebook](#)
- [Belnorth Instagram](#)
- [Belnorth Twitter](#)
- [ACT Sportsgrounds home page](#)
- [ACT Sportsgrounds Facebook](#)

If playing away, teams can consult the [Capital Football Club Directory](#).

### **Meteorological Factors**

The following should be considered when there has been excessive rain:

- 20mm of rain over 24 hours is a strong indicator that the sports ground soil structure is saturated, rendering it unfit for use
- during winter, sports grounds take additional time to recover
- rain events in the preceding week(s)
- anticipated future rain events

The Bureau of Meteorology website would be the best source of information when assessing the above considerations.

<http://www.bom.gov.au/act/observations/canberramap.shtml>

## **Pitch Inspection**

Club officials, coaches, managers and referees should consider the following when deciding on pitch safety:

- Surface water puddles
- Squelchy underfoot
- Sticky surface
- Unstable surface
- The football doesn't run over the surface