



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:

- 20mls 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