

REFEREES

Wet Weather Pitch Inspections

The referee has the authority to review the condition of the field, its surrounds, or the weather conditions, to determine whether to allow a match to take place.

It is the referee's discretion on the day to confirm whether it is safe to begin or proceed with a game.

A guiding principle in determining whether a game can go ahead is whether the conditions are **safe** for all participants in the game (players and match officials).

Advice for Pitch Inspections

Use participant safety as the guiding principle - '*can a safe game be played?*'

- Arrive 30 - 45 minutes prior to kick off to allow enough time for a pitch inspection.
- Check the field markings and goal posts. (Are there clear boundary markings; including the goal area, penalty area and corner arc? Are the goal posts secure and upright?)
- Check if there is surface water on the pitch. (Is excessive water pooling on the field? Will the ball roll on the pitch? Will the surface water create a danger to players or match officials who are attempting to run/change direction/tackle/challenge?)
- Check for ground softness or sinking.
- Consider prior matches or use of the field on the day. (Continued use of a field in poor weather may expose holes or create choppy surfaces that are no longer safe.)
- Continue to assess the pitch during the game and throughout the day - a field that is fine for the first match of the day may no longer be safe after use and ongoing wet weather.

All participants should respect the decision of a referee to postpone or abandoned a match due to unsafe conditions. Whilst the above may provide some guidance to match and club officials regarding the safety of a field, it is always up to the referee's discretion on the day to determine whether a game should kick off, or continue.



Please note the separate Football NSW lightning policy: footballnsw.com.au/resources/