

## Wentworth Falls Football Club Ground Closure Policy

Wentworth Falls Football Club makes informed decisions about ground closures by working closely with Blue Mountains City Council, and in alignment with Nepean Football Association and Nepean Referee Group guidelines. This 'Wentworth Falls Football Club Ground Closure Policy' outlines the process for assessing field conditions and determining whether games and training will proceed during wet weather, extreme heat, or lightning storms. The club follows established guidelines to ensure safety and optimal playing conditions for all players.

### Ground Closure Decision Process

#### **Council's Role:**

Blue Mountains City Council (BMCC) holds the authority to close Pitt Park, as well as any other sports ground within the region, to safeguard the playing surface, facilitate necessary maintenance, respond to inclement weather, or allow for the rehabilitation of grounds following damage. Should BMCC close Pitt Park, Wentworth Falls Football Club will confirm the closure and promptly notify all members.

#### **WFFC's Role:**

When BMCC does not conduct an assessment or if it falls outside of business hours, Wentworth Falls Football Club assumes responsibility for evaluating field conditions. The Club will decide if it is safe for football activities to proceed. If necessary, WFFC may cancel training or halt play to ensure player safety and preserve the quality of the playing surface. In the event of a WFFC-initiated closure, the WFFC Committee will confirm and communicate this decision to all members.

#### **Match Day Assessments:**

In preparation for each match day, our designated Grounds person will complete a comprehensive 'Ground Safety Checklist' to evaluate the field's safety. This includes assessing ground markings, debris, fencing, lighting, goalposts, ambulance access, public areas, and the availability of first aid kits. If weather conditions are unfavourable, our Grounds person will then perform a 'Referees Wet Weather Pitch Inspection Checklist' to examine surface water, ground softness, and the presence of holes or uneven terrain. Following this, and prior to the commencement of every scheduled match, a referee from the Nepean Referee Group (NRG) will conduct a final inspection. The referee holds the final authority to either proceed with or cancel the match based on their findings.

### Communication of Ground Closures

#### **Ground Closure Updates:**

WFFC will keep our members informed of any ground closures through WhatsApp Community Announcements and Facebook posts. To avoid confusion, we kindly ask members not to contact committee members directly for updates. During wet weather, field inspections are typically conducted by midday on weekdays and by 7:30 AM on weekends, with closure announcements made shortly thereafter. However, if committee volunteers are unavailable, inspections will be completed as soon as possible.

#### **Competition Matches:**

For official match status, players and teams should check DRIBL at [nfa.dribl.com](http://nfa.dribl.com) or their DRIBL App. A game listed as "**Pending**" is still scheduled to go ahead. If the status changes to "**Washout Reschedule**", it means the field is closed and the game will be

rescheduled. If the status says "*Washout Cancelled*", the game is cancelled entirely. If a game disappears from DRIBL, it means it is in the process of being rescheduled.

**Please note:** A match is only officially cancelled when DRIBL confirms it. If a team does not check DRIBL and assumes their game is off when it is not, they risk forfeiting. Matches may also be moved to a different field at short notice, so it is important to check DRIBL regularly for updates.