



City of Vaughan
Soccer Field – Wet Field Policy

Revised April 2011

In the interest of maintaining high quality playing fields and in an effort to prevent injury, the City of Vaughan will enforce the following policy and procedures when soccer fields become saturated.

Policy

The City of Vaughan recognizes the preservation and maintenance of its sports fields to the highest industry standards benefits user groups and preserves important City assets. In order to preserve these fields and to promote their use, the City is committed to protecting the fields against non-permitted or unauthorized use. The City will not allow play on fields when a 10-mm rainfall has occurred within an 8-hour period prior to field use when:

- a) the field is saturated *
- and / or
- b) there is evidence of surface water

*The definition of a saturated field is one where the soil cannot absorb any additional moisture and water runs off the surface or pools on the field. The easiest method to determine if a field is saturated is to walk on the playing surface. If the water is pushed around the foot then the field is saturated.

Procedures

The Director of Recreation and Culture will ensure that all soccer groups received the most updated Wet Field Policy.

1. Designated staff shall contact the Manager of Parks immediately when conditions warrant the closing of sports fields due to excessive rainfall.
2. Once a field has been deemed unplayable, the Manager of Parks or designate will contact the permit section of the Recreation Department who will inform the Permit holder by fax, e-mail or telephone (as predetermined when wet policy is signed).
 - a) prior to 3:00 p.m.
The Recreation Department will contact the permit holders to advise of the closure.

after 3:00 p.m.

The permit holders will not be contacted. Permit holders are responsible for checking the “soccer hot line number” (step 3) if games are questionable due to rain.

3. The Manager of Parks or designate will update the soccer hotline, recording the date and time fields are closed. The recording will reflect closures only with the appropriate date and will be updated with additional closures as shown;
 - a) Once fields are closed from 5 p.m. onward, for evening games they will not be reopened, unless approved based on the site visit by the Manager of Parks or the designate.
 - b) The hotline number will updated up to 8:30 p.m. with closures. After 8:30 p.m., parks patrol will notify User Groups on site if a closure is necessary.
 - c) The hotline will be updated as soon as conditions warrant the re-opening,
 - d) The hotline is accessible by calling 905- 832-8577.
4. Parks staff will complete the following at every **premium field when the wet field policy is in effect:**
 - a) “Field Unplayable” signs will be installed at all gates entering the soccer field. Signs shall include a number to call for inquiries and the bylaw reference number.
 - b) All gates will be locked with a separate lock, unavailable to the permit users.

Fields will be inspected by the Manager of Parks or designate prior to reopening and with the appropriate restrictions removed.
5. For major tournaments involving out of town teams, the City will try to accommodate by allowing scheduled games to be played on a non-premium fields.

Groups that are impacted from the wet field policy may rebook the fields through Recreation.
6. The City of Vaughan will use the following progressive system to enforce the policy:

- a) If users refuse an order to leave a closed field, the Parks or Security staff shall immediately contact the By-Law Enforcement staff. Enforcement staff shall note the names of the users and warn them that they are in violation of the Parks By-Law # 134-95 and will ask them to leave. Permit holders may be charged and fined as per the by-law.
- b) If the users still refuse to leave, the York Regional Police may be asked to assist under the Trespass to Property laws.
- c) A copy of the incident report shall be forwarded to the Manager of Parks, Director of Parks & Forestry Operations, Director of Recreation and Culture and to the Commissioner of Community Services.
- d) The Director of Recreation and Culture may call the person (s) to a meeting with the Director of Parks and Forestry Operations or designated within one week of the incident and will take whatever action is necessary up to and including the canceling of any further permits. Users may be back charged for costs for damages to the fields, costs for staff time during the incident or any other costs incurred by the City to enforce the policy.
- e) Any further occurrence may result in the cancellation of permits for one year for the organization involved.

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