

Wet Weather Fixture Management Guidelines

1. Overview

This guideline outlines the processes and considerations the MWFA follows when managing fixtures during wet weather. The aim is to maintain fairness across all competitions and ensure as many scheduled matches as possible are completed each season.

2. Weekend Fixture Updates (Saturday & Sunday)

- Northern Beaches Council grounds staff contact the MWFA Competition Manager early each Saturday and Sunday morning to advise which fields are available for use.
- Once the ground availability has been confirmed, MWFA Staff take all fixtures temporarily offline in Dribl while updates are made.
- Once all changes are finalised, fixtures are republished, typically before 7:30am.
- Key MWFA Club contacts are advised at the same time to ensure that clubs are informed and can prepare grounds for play.

3. Midweek Fixture Updates (Monday–Friday)

- Northern Beaches Council provides field availability updates at 3:00pm each day.
- All night match schedules are then reviewed and adjusted as required, based on the updated ground conditions.

4. Fixture Adjustment Principles

The MWFA's priority is to ensure that all age groups and divisions complete their full schedule of fixtures. To achieve this:

- Every effort is made to utilise available timeslots on open pitches.
- Fixtures may be rescheduled or relocated on the day of play to maximise the number of matches completed.
- Teams, regardless of whether their match is scheduled on an open or closed pitch, must check Dribl on the day of their fixture for the most up-to-date information.

This process maintains fairness and consistency across competitions and enables equal completion of rounds by season's end.

5. Factors Considered When Determining Which Fixtures Proceed

When assessing whether leagues or age groups can proceed during wet weather, the MWFA considers the following:

- a) **Ground Availability**
 - Number of open fields and potential to maximise their use.
- b) **Access to Synthetic Pitches**
 - Synthetic fields are not exclusively allocated to MWFA Clubs.
 - They are shared with other codes (e.g., AFL, Rugby).
 - Lionel Watts operates on a shared weekend rotation, and Narrabeen Sports High and Melwood Oval are frequently allocated to other codes during the week.
- c) **Weather Progression**
 - Likelihood of ongoing rainfall throughout the day.
 - If conditions deteriorate, fields may become unsafe, resulting in matches being abandoned.
- d) **Washout Rounds**
 - Whether the league has a scheduled washout round later in the season that can be utilised.
- e) **League Size and Scheduling Requirements**
 - Whether enough grounds are open to schedule all matches in a league (e.g., 6-team league = 3 matches; 12-team league = 6 matches).
- f) **Total Rounds Allocated**
 - Different leagues have different total rounds (e.g., 22 rounds vs 17 rounds), based on the number of teams.
 - The MWFA aims for all teams to complete the same number of rounds by the end of the season.
- g) **Promotion and Relegation Implications**
 - Priority may be given to leagues where final standings affect promotion or relegation.

Version Control

Version	Date	Author	Comments
1	October 2025	MWFA Competition Manager	Initial version issued
2	November 2025	MWFA CEO	Minor updates (no policy impact)
3	26 February 2026	MWFA Director - Finance	Minor policy updates (Part 2, 3 & 4)
4	5 March 2026	MWFA Administrator	Minor wording and layout updates (no policy impact)

Policy Approved by the MWFA Board – 7th April 2026