

Sporting Field Closure Policy Inclement Weather and Renovation Works

DETAILS

Effective from:	1 July 2013
Contact officer:	Coordinator Recreational Services
Next review date:	July 2018
File reference:	CS433/263/08
iSpot reference:	
Policy	23743390
Value Proposition	42072717

OBJECTIVES AND MEASURES

Objectives	The policy aims to define the conditions of use when sporting fields are recommended for closure during inclement weather and/or rectification/renovation works. It provides clear direction as to the accountability of approved user groups.
Performance Measures	A decreasing trend in the number of reported incidents where the public have utilised and/or caused damage to a “closed” park. An increasing number of days sports fields are open for use.
Risk assessment	Environment

POLICY STATEMENT

The policy is intended to:-

1. Provide for appropriate public access to parks and reserves for organised active recreation.
2. Protect the safety of persons using parks and reserves.
3. Preserve the features of the natural and built environment and other aspects of the amenity of parks and reserves.
4. Regulate activities in parks and reserves and ensure appropriate standards of conduct.
5. Mitigate financial loss to the Council of the City of Gold Coast (Council) by reducing unnecessary wear and tear on the City’s playing surfaces and consequential cost of maintenance.
6. Balance the needs of the community to embrace an active and healthy lifestyle with financial and safety responsibilities.

Due to inclement weather, Council officers may elect to recommend closure of any or all of City controlled sporting fields. Junior participation and the importance of encouraging an active and healthy lifestyle from a young age will always be a priority. Junior and secondary playing fields will, whenever possible, remain open for junior (18 or under) age use in periods of wet weather and will only be fully closed (to both juniors and seniors) in exceptional weather circumstances.

If fields are close due to wet weather, this will be advised via Council’s Sports Field Hotline phone message or webpage.

Fields may also be closed by Council officers in the event of fields requiring renovation or rectification works. The preferred notification of such closure is to be placed in writing to Right of Use permit holders, as well as notification via the Sport Field Hotline webpage.

For closure to the general public, a notice of closure must be placed within or at each public entry to the park or reserve to clearly indicate that it is closed or partly closed.

Local Law No.9 and its subordinate/s is applied should the Council's advice not be adhered to.

SCOPE

The policy applies to any group wishing to utilise Council controlled sporting fields whether under the Right of Use Program, casual booking or general recreational purposes. The policy will be utilised when the Council has recommended the closure of any or all sporting fields due to wet weather or to allow for the carrying out of construction, maintenance, repair or renovation works.

DEFINITIONS

Council – Council of the City of Gold Coast

Junior: A person aged 18 or under.

Junior Use: Junior competition or training and inter-school sport.

Organised active recreation: any activity coordinated utilising structured playing conditions.

Park/reserve: City owned or controlled land designated as park

Right of Use Program: refers to the annual allocation of Council administered sport and recreational facilities for organised, regulated and coordinated use by schools, sporting clubs and/or community organisations.

Right of User Permit: permit granted through the Right of Use Program.

Right of Use Terms and Conditions: refers to the document stipulating terms and conditions of use each school or organisation is required to adhere to when utilising City administered sport and recreational facilities.

RELATED POLICIES AND DELEGATIONS

- Local Law No 9 Policy
- Local Law No 9 (Parks and Reserves)
- Park Usage Policies
- Right of Use Program Policy

LEGISLATION

- *Local Government Act 2009*

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- Right of Use Terms and Conditions
- Corporate Plan 2009-2014

RESPONSIBILITIES

Sponsor	Director Community Services
Owner	Manager Parks and Recreational Services

VERSION CONTROL

Document	Date	Approved	Amendment
23743390 v3	12.12.12	CC13.1205.007/G13.1212.009	Council adopted amendments
23743390 v2	19.07.10	CC10.0714.018/G10.0719/029	
23743390 v1	13.12.02	R02.1205.022/G02.1213.037	