## PITCH PROTOCOL

Please find below the protocol for calling games off due to unplayable surface. Can you please circulate to the Clubs within your League.

A common sense approach needs to be applied.

If the pitch is thought to be unplayable by the club Groundsman or Local Authority Groundsman prior to the day of the game every effort should be made to find an alternative pitch.

The Match Official is responsible for calling games off if the pitch is deemed unplayable on the day of the game.

The pitch inspection should be carried out two hours prior to a game or before the visiting team departs for the game – whichever is the sooner.

The Match Official should make the decision in accordance with the "Natural Turf Inspection Form" (next page) and in consultation with the Groundsman if present.

The Match Official should consult both coaches before confirming the decision.

The "Natural Turf Inspection Form" then needs to be completed by MO and sent to the Competition Administrator.

If the game does not have an appointed Match Official (e.g. Primary Rugby League) the coaches should make an informed decision based on player welfare. The "Natural Turf Inspection Form" may still be used.

For games where a full pitch is not required, alternative playing areas such as schools, parks and other grassed venues can be sought.

The condition of the pitch is the responsibility of the Club. If pitches are not in good condition the Club should talk the Local Authority to discuss how improvements can be made.

With the prospect of the weather not relenting Clubs are encouraged to review the state of their pitches as soon as practicably possible. One solution could be that fixtures are reversed.

Natural Turf Pitch Inspection Form														
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- surface water puddles Dry Pitch Visual inspection poor grass coverage - great than 10% bare patches or weet Frozen Pitch		squelchy under foot		t 	Comments Comments Comments									
		feels hard underfoot		fork te	st									
Visual inspection - more than dusting of snow		Walk on - feels hard underfoot			k test		nts							
Inspected by (Groundsman, Official, Coach) Agreed by (Official, Coach, Club														
Secretary)														
Game called off due to:		Wet Pitch			Dry Pitch			Fro	ozen Pitch			Snow		
<ul> <li><u>Guidance</u></li> <li>Walk-on and visual inspections should be carried out across all 10 areas as illustrated</li> <li>The Pitch Inspection should be carried out two hours prior to a match or before the visiting teams departs for the game – whichever is the sooner</li> <li>Good healthy grass coverage is essential to reduce the cancellation of games in dry weather. There should be <u>no more</u> than 10% bare areas</li> <li>Soil compaction can contribute significantly to poor drainage problems</li> </ul>						• F S • I • I	lold houl f forl f forl	garden f der heig k penetr	fork w ght and ates t	d releas he surfa	se ace = fi	it to pla	ay	
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