

NCRFU League Competition Field Closure Policy

In addition to the USAR *Weather Cancellation Procedures* and *Severe Weather and Lightning Policy*, the NCRFU introduces a *League & Play-off Match Field Closure Policy* designed to guide teams when field closures occur due to weather, emergencies, or other unforeseen events.

Rain or bad weather in and of itself is an insufficient reason to cancel a match. However, field policies and player safety (both traveling to and playing in the match) must be considered when making a game decision regarding inclement weather or other unforeseen events. Either before or during the match, the referee has the power to cancel the match due to existing unsafe playing conditions in his or her opinion.

Home Field Expectations

Each home team should be aware of the rules governing use of its home pitch by the Owner of the facility during extreme or adverse weather conditions. Any field restrictions should be communicated to opponents when scheduling and referees when confirming matches. If a field is closed by an Owner, the match is cancelled and must be rescheduled if it is a divisional play match.

Documentation of Owner facility closures or restrictions should be sent to the NCRFU Scheduling Secretary within 48 hours of cancellation.

Alternate Game Day Field

If the home team can find another available field to use, they can ask the travel team and referee to accommodate a new field location as long as the travel time is not increased by more than 30 minutes using Google Maps with no traffic for the away team and the new kick-off time would remain within one half hour of the original kick-off time.

Communication Expectations

If the current or pending weather is unfavorable, teams are expected to keep an open line of communication with their opponent and the referee involved. Open line of communication means phone calls with discussion or an active exchange of e-mails or texts; one-way communications are not acceptable (ex. voicemail and/or emails without a reply).

If a club's home field is closed, they need to contact the referee and opposition club immediately via phone call, email, and/or text. The phone numbers and emails to be utilized will be the referee contact list available via the NCRRS and the club contact list sent to clubs at the beginning of the season and available on the NCRFU website. **In the case that an alternate number should be used, this should be provided during the match confirmation emails in the week prior to the match.**

The home club should to keep documentation of the outgoing call (ex. screen shot of the party called and time and length of call, wireless bill, referee witness) and keep a copy of the outgoing email. Attempts should be made to contact the match secretary, then president, then other officers, until someone can be reached in person. If no one can be reached, please text and/or leave voicemails with the contact phone numbers provided.

Re-Scheduling Rain Make-Ups

If the decision is mutually reached to postpone the match, teams should communicate this to the referee, the NCRFU Scheduling Secretary and the appropriate Divisional Coordinator immediately. Teams should set make-up match details by the Monday following the originally scheduled match

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and communicate them to the appropriate NCRFU Divisional Coordinator. Divisional play matches must take precedence over any 'friendly' matches or other club events.

The reschedule date, if necessary, will be determined in the following manner for all league play:

- a. The travel team suggests remaining bye weekends in which to play. The match will be played at home pitch if home team is amenable to this date. If their pitch is not available but the date is suitable to them, the travel team can host. If the home team does not agree to this date, they should advise the opposition why this date is not suitable, and they can suggest a different date in which they want to host the match. If the travel team does not agree see item
- b. In the event the two teams do not mutually agree on and determine a make-up date to the NCRFU within five (5) calendar days of the rained-out match, the following will apply:
 1. If there are available open Saturdays, and neither team can play on those dates, then they should have to submit documentable proof to the Competition Committee to review as to why they cannot play on a certain date (active or alum player's wedding, team hosting a charity event, multiple players on select side that may be scheduled, another match already scheduled for a non-blackout date).
 - i. If the Competition Committee agrees that no alternate date can be agreed to, it will be recorded as a cancellation and no points awarded to either club.
 - ii. If the competition chair disagrees with the reasons why a date can't be agreed to by either of the teams, a date will be set for the reschedule by the competition chair. If one of the teams still refuses to play on that date, that game will be declared a forfeit by that team with a point deduction.
 - iii. If neither team is cooperative in rescheduling the match (ex. both teams looking for a competitive advantage) both teams will have a point deducted and the match cancelled.
- c. In the case that a team needs more than one match rescheduled, the Competition Committee may consider a Sunday match date. However, a team may not be forced to play a Sunday match. Other options available to the team facing two matches may elect to play the 2nd match on the same date and location as the first match. They may elect to forfeit one match without negative points penalty, this option may only take effect if the club plays their other make up match. Failure to play at least one match will result in the points penalty being applied to both matches.
- d. If a mutual rescheduling decision cannot be reached between the teams and the referee, both teams should contact their respective Divisional Coordinator outlining the details surrounding the disagreement. This should be the very last resort. Teams are expected to work out match details on their own as much as possible and come to an appropriate decision. Both teams involved are expected to be respectful of their opponent's situation as well as uphold their commitment to play the match.
- e. Failure to make up a match will result in 0 or negative points awarded to each team depending on the circumstances. A team may receive 1 match report point if they have communicated with

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their Divisional Coordinator regarding the match. Further disciplinary action or fines may be assessed depending on the circumstances.

Referee Travel & Expenses

If the referee travels to the field prior to notification, then the home club is responsible for the referee fee and mileage to be paid at the annual IRS rate, per mile. Normal travel time would be estimated for the referee to arrive 2 hours prior to KO from their home address. Travel time will be estimated using Google Maps normal travel time without traffic.

- a. If a referee is notified prior to when normal travel will start, they would not be eligible to receive any reimbursement.
- b. If they travel part way, the remaining actual reimbursement % will be based upon time of notification vs. distance traveled (ex. referee notified halfway into travel time would be eligible for 50% reimbursement). This would require documentation and approval from NCRFU Competitions Committee.
- c. If a referee travels all the way to the field, they are eligible for 100% reimbursement.

Team Travel & Expenses

In the event a team travels prior to notification of field closing they have the option for reimbursement according to the following 7 cars at 0.25 a mile round trip from pitch to pitch. Normal travel time would be estimated for the away team to arrive 1.5 hours prior to kick-off from their home pitch address. Travel time will be estimated using Google Maps normal travel time without traffic.

- a. If a club is notified prior to when normal travel will start, they would not be eligible to receive any reimbursement.
- b. If they travel part way, the remaining actual reimbursement % will be based upon time of notification vs. distance traveled (ex. team notified halfway into travel time would be eligible for 50% reimbursement). This would require documentation and approval from NCRFU Competitions Committee.
- c. If a club travels all the way to the field, they are eligible for 100% reimbursement.

Reimbursements, if necessary, will be provided by the NCRFU and the NCRFU will assess the home club for the amount to be reimbursed unless the away club agrees to be paid directly by the home club. Reimbursements for referee travel will be made to the NCRRS unless the NCRFU authorizes direct payment to the referee.

Decisions by the Competition Committee may be appealed to the NCRFU Executive Committee for consideration. Appeals must be made in writing to the Secretary and President and (Insert policy here). Any officer with a conflict of interest (on a club in question or whose club would gain a competitive or other advantage from the outcome of the decision) will not be eligible to be part of the appeals board.

This policy applies to all matches played under the jurisdiction of the NCRFU, while those played under USAR jurisdiction shall be bound by their policies.