



Postponement Protocol - Procedures to Follow During Inclement Weather

In the event of wet weather and concerns about pitch playability, the following procedures must be followed to ensure the safety of players and adherence to FA and League regulations:

Severe Weather Protocol

When the regional weather conditions are known to be extreme e.g. prolonged and heavy rain or severe frost then the game can be postponed at the discretion of the home club if the Severe Weather Protocol has been implemented by the League. Under such circumstances, the earliest the decision can be made is the day prior to the scheduled date of the game whilst the latest is one hour prior to the time the visiting team are scheduled to commence their journey. When activated all club secretaries will be notified on the Friday afternoon for any Saturday fixtures that have been brought forward and by Saturday afternoon for Sunday fixtures. In the event that the severe weather protocol is implemented, fixtures will be automatically rescheduled if postponed on Full-time due to pitch conditions and there is no further correspondence required from clubs.

In the event that a fixture is postponed on a week when the severe weather protocol has NOT been issued, the Fixtures Secretary should also be informed via Monday.com/contact us page which can be found on our website. This communication must come from the club secretary or chairperson, with a list of all fixtures affected, details of who carried out the pitch inspection and rationale for any decisions made, with any accompanying photo/video evidence. Individual managers should not contact the league to inform of postponements due to pitch conditions and will not be taken into account for the rescheduling of fixtures.

Postponement Protocol and Notifications

Upon reaching the decision to postpone a game, the home club must immediately inform the away team and any appointed match Official via their contact details supplied via Full-time (if not carrying out the inspection).

The fixture should also be postponed on Full-time. This can be done by the team manager or other club official as decided by the individual club's policy. This does not replace the need for communication from the club secretary to the League when no severe weather protocol is in place.

Referees/Clubs Decision

In the event that a CFA referee has been appointed to a fixture, they should be contacted at the earliest possible time to make a decision on pitch conditions. Obvious weather may determine a decision or an inspection may be necessary. Video calls may be acceptable in certain circumstances. Multiple pitches can be inspected by one referee at the same site. The referees decision is final and binding.

In the event of no official referee being appointed, the club groundsman/appointed official should make the pitch inspection. Individual managers should not make decisions on pitch conditions and subsequent fixture postponements

Factors to Consider when making a pitch inspection

Prior to reaching their decision the referee/appointed club officer who is making the inspection should consider the following:

- The safety of the ground, eg frost
- The existing condition of the playing surface in conjunction with the prevailing weather
- The impact playing a fixture will have on the pitch for subsequent fixtures
- The views of the home club groundsman in terms of local knowledge and draining
- The visiting club are due to commence their journey.

Condition of Pitches

All clubs are reminded that they should keep their playing surfaces and equipment in a safe condition. Any breach of this requirement should be reported to the League/Competition in which they participate, who will arrange a Safety Inspection. The League/Competition have power to require the club to carry out remedial work and close the pitch if necessary. A club may appeal the League/Competition decision to Cornwall FA. Details of the appeal should be submitted in writing together with the appropriate fee.

This protocol aims to maximize the number of matches played while ensuring player safety, minimising wasted travel, and maintaining the spirit of football for all.

Thank you for your cooperation

CORNWALL YOUTH LEAGUE COMMITTEE