

<b>Policy No:</b>	<b>TPF – 005</b>
<b>Department:</b>	<b>TRANSPORTATION SERVICES &amp; ROADS, PARKS AND FORESTRY OPERATIONS</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>WET FIELD POLICY</b>

That the Wet Field Policy be approved and the implementation date be July 1, 1996.

Attachment: Wet Field Policy

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<b>Council Approval:</b>	1996/06/27	<b>Amended:</b>	N/A
<b>Report No/Item:</b>	7	<b>Report No/Item:</b>	N/A
<b>Cross Reference:</b>	Old Policy No. 04.3.09		

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ATTACHMENT 1

## City of Vaughan Wet Field Policy

July 1, 1996

A demand for higher quality playing fields and greater concern for player safety has created a greater need for a wet field policy. Wear tolerance of turf is at its lowest during periods of excess water. Soil compaction which deters root zone growth and destruction of the grass plant crown by the violent foot traffic of active play are major factors in creating undesirable playing surfaces. In order to address the problem, the following policy is implemented.

**Purpose**

To protect the turf on the sportsfield and maintain a safe surface for the use of all age groups. In addition, this policy provides direction for staff and user groups in order to determine when a field should be closed to play which reduces disagreements as to game forfeitures.

**Policy**

No field is to be used for play at any time within a minimum of 8 hours after a rainfall which creates a saturated field or if there is evidence of surface water on the field.

**General**

1. The definition of a wet (saturated) field is one where the soil cannot absorb any additional moisture and water runs off the surface or pools on the field. The simplest method to determine if a field is saturated is to walk on the playing surface. If water is pushed around the foot then the field is saturated.
2. The most appropriate person to monitor the field and advise as to condition are the Parks Supervisors.
3. If a field is deemed unplayable the Supervisor shall notify the Recreation and Culture Department - Permit Section. The permit section will contact the permittee and advise of the field closure. In order to ensure all users are advised the field will also be posted with a sign indicating the field is closed due to wet conditions.

The Parks Department will endeavour to advise the Recreation and Culture Department 2:00 p.m. of any closures. In some instances where storms start later in the day the City may have to rely on signage and Parks Patrol. Showers and cloud bursts are not a concern in this instance.

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4. A progressive system will be used for the enforcement of this policy.
  - a. If the policy is disregard then the appropriate person (coach/manager) will be contacted in writing by the City and their appropriate organization and reminded about the policy and warned against future infractions.  
  
If the damage is extreme then the written warning shall outline repairs and costs associated with the work.
  - b. If a second infraction occurs by the team then a suspension of the coach/team official would be implemented by their appropriate organization.
  - c. If a third infraction occurs by the team then the cancellation of their permit would be considered for the remainder of the season. The City would hope that all concerns would be resolved prior to this step.
5. The executive of all clubs being issued permits for the use of City of Vaughan fields will be required to sign a form indicating that they have read and are supportive of the Wet Field Policy. It will be the associations responsibility to inform and educate their coaches and team officials. City staff will provide assistance in preparing an education package for the associations.
6. Each association shall designate one individual and an alternative as a contact person for the notification of any field closure.
7. This Policy will be issued with all sportsfield permits.

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