

NSC Field Closing Procedures and Guidelines
As of December 2013

The decision to close fields is based on current field conditions as well as the forecasted weather for that particular day. Fields will be closed when it is determined that the conditions are unsafe for play and it is necessary to protect the fields. The Fields Director will make the call for fields to be closed by 3:00 pm. In his/her absence, a club official or member designated by Fields Director will make the decision. If the Field's Director, club official or member designated by Fields Director makes the decision to close fields, **all fields** will be closed, **no exceptions**.

Prior to fields being closed, the following will be taken into consideration:

1. Weather – Current or impending storms.
2. Coaches Needs – Amount of demand for that day. (post rain for wet fields)
3. For safety and preservation purposes if there is a chance of:
 - Field Damage
 - Wet Fields
 - Lawn Treatment
 - Seeding and/or Pesticide

Even though fields may be listed as open, each coach should be reminded that their practice (or game) must be cancelled if any of the following exists on a field:

- There is standing water present that cannot be removed without causing damage to the field.
- There are muddy conditions present that will not dry by the start of the practice (or game).
- It begins raining steadily and hard.
- Lightning strikes are present.

Field Closure Policy and Procedure

- a. To promote safe play that will not jeopardize players' safety.
- b. To play in conditions that will not result in damage to fields.
- c. To have a policy whereby coaches, parents, players and opposing teams have comfortable notice to get to the game (or practice) and plan their day.

Weekend procedure for field closure (in the event of inclement weather)

1. The Fields Director, club official or member designated by Fields Director will visually inspect the game fields between 7:00 am and 7:30 am.
2. Should the **fields** be questionable for play and the weather forecast calls for continued rain/snow for the majority of the day, the Fields Director, club official or member designated by Fields Director will close the field for the day. An email will be sent to the affected coaches.
3. Should the **forecast** be questionable, perhaps rain, snow or unplayable field conditions in the morning but conditions may improve, the morning games only (those scheduled with start times before 12:00 pm) will be cancelled. The field will not be closed.
4. If after 8:00 am, a closure notice has not been sent out, fields are open and players should report for their game.
5. This will be on a game-by-game basis.