



Title: Athletic Field Closure Policy	External
Department: Recreation and Leisure Services	Policy Number : RL-001
Approval Date: June 18 th , 2013	Implementation Date: June 20 th , 2013

BACKGROUND

The Town of Paradise takes pride in its ability to provide high quality outdoor recreation facilities, for both competitive and recreational athletic teams. To ensure consistent and efficient outdoor recreational service is provided, it is crucial that the Town take steps to maintain sports grounds as well as protect the athletes who utilize them.

OBJECTIVE / PURPOSE

This policy allows for the implementation of a standardized process for assessing the suitability of grounds for playing when impacted by weather conditions. Specifically, it aims to mitigate the destruction of sports grounds during, and following, inclement weather. Further, the policy aims to reduce the possibility of injury caused by activity on unsafe Sports Grounds as a result of inclement weather.

DEFINITIONS

“Town” refers to the Town of Paradise.

“Sports Grounds” refers to any Town-owned outdoor sports facilities, including but not limited to baseball, softball and soccer fields.

“Inclement Weather” refers to weather conditions, as determined by the Town of Paradise or an employee or agent of the Town of Paradise, that may result in the necessity to close Sports Grounds, such as snow, excessive rain, lightning, and other naturally occurring conditions.

“Penalty or Penalties” refers to action to be carried out when persons using the Sports Grounds do not comply with this policy.

POLICY STATEMENT

This policy applies to all recreational and competitive teams who utilize Town-owned Sports Grounds. In the event of Inclement Weather, the following procedures are to be followed. Non-compliance will result in Penalties as outlined below.

GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES

1. Field Inspection and Decision

- a. The decision to close Sports Grounds will be made by Recreation Facilities Maintenance personnel in consultation with the Director of Recreation following an inspection of the Sports Grounds. Sports Ground inspections will take place no later than 2:00pm on the day of Inclement Weather.
- b. Should a decision be made to close Sports Grounds on the day of Inclement Weather, the Sports Grounds shall remain closed until 2:00 pm the following day, unless the Town notifies otherwise.
- c. An inspection may be made prior to 2:00 pm on a day following a day of Inclement Weather. Notification of same will be made pursuant to Section 2 of this policy.
- d. Closure will be dependent on the following criteria, as determined at the sole discretion of the Facilities Maintenance personnel or the Director of Recreation:
 - i. If there are visible pools of water on the Sports Ground;
 - ii. If the water sponges when the Sports Ground is stepped on;
 - iii. If there is steady rain falling or there has been steady rain falling up to one hour prior to the decision deadline;
 - iv. If there is visible ice and or snow on the Sports Ground; and
 - v. If the ground clings or cakes to cleats and or shoes.
- e. In the event that the weather worsens (for example, if lightning develops) during a scheduled usage time, teams will be contacted on site, and will be asked by Recreation Facilities Maintenance personnel to terminate the Sports Ground use.

2. Notification

All decisions regarding Sports Grounds closures will be broadcast in the following ways:

- i. On the Town website under 'Public Notices' (www.townofparadise.ca);
- ii. On the Town Twitter feed (@townofparadise); and
- iii. By contacting the Rotary Paradise Community Centre (709-782-6290).

3. Penalties

Those who contravene any decision made with regards to Sports Grounds closures will initially be given a warning in respect of their violation. Should violators be found in contravention a second time, that team or group will be suspended from using all Town-owned Sports Grounds for the remainder of the season.

4. Disclaimer

Weather conditions can change quickly and without warning. Therefore, notwithstanding the implementation of this Policy, users of Town-owned Sports Grounds remain responsible for

ensuring that the use of the Sports Grounds is appropriate and safe for users at any given time.

Users of Sports Grounds must exercise reasonable judgment and caution at all times, and are not entitled to rely solely upon the inspection and decision of the Town.

POLICY REVIEW

This policy is to be reviewed at the end of the 2013 summer recreation season with any changes being implemented for the 2013 fall season.

Motion

Be it resolved that the Town of Paradise adopt the Athletic Field Closure Policy as presented and reviewed in the Fall of 2013 for any potential changes.

Chief Administrative Officer (Signature): *Rebecca Cumby*

Date: *Nov 21/13*