



**Hamilton**

Community Services Department

Facility Booking, Recreation Division

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**Re: RAIN OUT POLICY**

In an effort to help reduce unnecessary and expensive repairs and maintenance to City owned sports fields, the following Division policy will be adhered to:

Sports fields in the City of Hamilton will be considered **UNPLAYABLE** if the following conditions exist:

- i) Visual ponding of water on the surface of the field/diamond
- ii) Water sponging up around your feet when walking on the field/diamond

If either of these conditions exists, then the field/diamond will be considered "UNPLAYABLE" and the practice cancelled, or game rescheduled.

**PROCEDURE**

Poor field/diamond conditions or weather conditions leading to cancellations by Park staff/League Administrators /Game Officials will result in a credit on the Permit holder's account. The credit will accumulate throughout the season and will be applied to the following season's contract.

If a user group arrives at a field/diamond where these conditions exist, the user group will be asked not to play on the field/diamond by League Administrators, Game Officials and/or City staff.

In situations where City staff and/or Officials are not present, the League will ensure the Policy is adhered to. Several factors must be considered, including the safety of the participants, the possibility of liability through accident or injury, and the unnecessary expense of field/diamond repairs and maintenance.

If a group ignores the "UNPLAYABLE" conditions, the following consequences may occur:

- i) The permit holder will be required to pay for all damages to the field/diamond arising from abuse to the facility where the permitted group is proven responsible.
- ii) The permit holder will be held liable and responsible for accidents or injuries incurred because of unsafe conditions
- iii) The permit holder will have their permit suspended or revoked for any future use of a field/diamond controlled by the City of Hamilton

City Staff/League Administrators /Game Officials are responsible for determining field playability according to the guidelines provided within the Policy and will ensure the Policy is adhered to.

The Recreation Division staff will ensure all sports groups have received the Rain Out Policy. They will email the policy to the groups in May for notification purposes.

**NOTE:**

For Mohawk Sports Park, contact Park staff at (905 546-4401) by 1pm weekdays and 8am on weekends to determine field/diamond playability.

For all other locations, please contact Facility Bookings at 905 540-5590 between 2pm-4:30pm Monday through Friday.

Park staff will endeavor in advance of weekends and statutory holidays to contact user groups when weather is predicted to affect playability but the **responsibility also falls on the Permit holder** to contact the City for possible cancellations due to inclement weather.

The Recreation Facility Booking Clerks will endeavor to contact Permit holders via e-mail, phone or fax of City cancellations received during office hours.

After office hours, Park staff will endeavor to contact Permit holders but as stated above, it is also the responsibility of the Permit holder to check the status of the diamonds/fields prior to the start of their games.

Cancellations will be posted on the City of Hamilton's website and Permit holders can access the site for closures at [www.Hamilton.ca/rec](http://www.Hamilton.ca/rec).

If Park staff closes a field/diamond after business hours or on weekends, they will contact Facility Bookings by 10am the following business day so that Permit holder's accounts can be adjusted accordingly.

**RESCHEDULING:**

Permit holders who have not utilized a field/diamond due to Rainout conditions, **must** call Facility Booking by **noon the following day**.

Where the game was scheduled for the weekend, the Permit holder **must** notify Facility Booking staff by **noon the following Monday**.