



WET WEATHER & COURT SURFACING POLICY

Introduction

An England Netball court survey on 13 February 2019 identified that the netball court playing surface at Budmouth Academy meets slip resistance requirements in dry conditions, however there are some concerns in wet conditions. Due to future new builds at Budmouth it is not currently feasible to discuss with the owner of the courts the possibility of undertaking maintenance or upgrade to the court surface to enhance slip resistance in wet conditions. The League Committee, as advised by England Netball, continue to monitor court conditions on match nights, and review and update this Wet Weather & Court Surfacing Policy which sets out responsibilities in the event of wet weather on match nights. Court Conditions remain an ongoing agenda item for committee meetings.

Pre-match Decision

In the event of wet weather prior to a match night the Committee Chair, or nominated deputy, will liaise with nominated committee members to decide whether fixtures will go ahead. Discussions will consider weather conditions during the day and the forecast for the evening. As per existing league rules, wherever possible a decision to cancel will be made by 5.00pm. Team secretaries will be notified and notices posted through the league social media. Unfortunately, in unforeseen circumstances matches may be cancelled upon arrival, e.g. late rain downpour.

In-match Decision

As per league rules, in the event of unforeseen weather conditions during a match night the reporting umpires will discuss with the Committee Duty Officer and make a decision whether to call off matches. Umpires may hold time during a match in order to discuss this decision, or come together at quarter time to review the court situation. League rules 7.6 and 7.7 will apply.

Umpires

Generally, a decision to cancel will relate to all matches and it is rare that a single match will be called off. However, umpires will monitor play during the game and if there are concerns, they should call time and discuss between themselves. They can seek advice from other umpires or Committee members. The captains of the playing teams should also be consulted. Umpires should consider the court conditions and may decide that less contest will be permitted, in order to reduce any contest which may result in an increased risk of injury.

Playing Advice

Playing style should be adjusted to reflect the conditions of the court surface. Coaches and captains will need to remind players to consider their movement and demands put on each other as team members. For example, shorter movement and passes to enable players to receive the ball in a way that enables them to land with a strong base.

Conclusion

Where possible matches will go ahead and cancellations will only be made if it is considered the playing surface is unsuitable. Players and umpires must understand that injuries are unfortunately inevitable when participating in sport and the court surface may or may not be a contributing factor. In the event of a team

deciding they do not want to take to the court or continue with a match because of court conditions the committee respect their decision to stop participating. The team may send a letter to the committee requesting the option to replay the fixture. The umpires may be consulted to assist with any decision the committee make about replaying the fixture. If the match is to be replayed the requesting team will be responsible for arranging the fixture, including the court costs and umpires/umpires expenses, and ensure the opposition can field a team. It should be noted that under no circumstances should the condition of the courts be used as a reason to abandon a game when a team is not happy with their performance/playing with a depleted squad.

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