



## Navarre Youth Sports Association

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# Navarre Youth Sports Association Field Closure Policy March 2025

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## Purpose:

This policy outlines the circumstances under which a sports field managed by the Navarre Youth Sports Association (NYSA) may be closed, the process for closing a field, and the individuals authorized to make such decisions. The goal is to ensure the safety of participants, preserve the quality of the fields, and provide clear guidelines for field closure decisions.

## 1. Reasons for Field Closure

A sports field may be closed for the following reasons:

- **Inclement Weather:**
  - Heavy rain, thunderstorms, or lightning with 5 Nautical miles which can create unsafe playing conditions or damage the field.
  - Snow or ice accumulation that makes the field hazardous for play.
  - Strong winds or tornado warnings that may pose a safety risk.
- **Field Condition:**
  - Wet or muddy field conditions that can cause injury or damage to the turf.
  - Field damage due to wear and tear, vandalism, or other issues requiring repairs.
  - Field maintenance, such as over-seeding or fertilizing, which makes the field unsuitable for play.
- **Health & Safety Concerns:**
  - Unsafe conditions such as standing water, flooding, or other hazards that pose a risk to players or spectators.
  - Public health concerns, including emergency situations like pandemics or disease outbreaks, where gathering is unsafe.
- **Special Events or Emergencies:**
  - Scheduled events or activities (e.g., tournaments, community events) that require exclusive use of the field.
  - Emergencies that necessitate the field being closed for safety or security reasons.

## 2. Authorized Personnel to Close Fields

Only the following individuals are authorized to close a sports field:

- **Field Manager / Facilities Manager:**

The Field Manager or Facilities Manager has the primary responsibility for assessing field conditions and making the decision to close or reopen the field. This decision is based on weather reports, field inspections, and safety concerns.
- **Executive Council Members:**

In the event that the Field Manager is unavailable, an authorized member of the NYSA Executive Council may make the decision to close the field, especially in cases of emergency or unforeseen circumstances.
- **Sport Commissioners / Coaches / Team Managers:**

In cases of extreme weather or immediate safety concerns during scheduled practices or games, coaches or team managers have the discretion to suspend activities and clear the field. They should notify the Field Manager or Facilities Manager for further action.

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## 3. Notification of Field Closures

- **Internal Communication:**

The NYSA will establish a protocol for notifying coaches, players, and other stakeholders when a field closure occurs. This may include email, text messaging, or a posted notice on the NYSA website or social media platforms.

- **Public Notification:**

If the closure affects the public use of the field, the NYSA will take appropriate measures to inform the community through signage, the website, or other means.

## 4. Appeals and Reopening

- Any decisions regarding field closures may be appealed by a commissioner, coach or team manager by submitting a request to the Executive Committee.
- If conditions improve, the Field Manager will assess the field and may make the decision to reopen it.

## 5. Documentation and Reporting

- All field closures should be documented, including the reason for closure, the date and time of closure, and the person(s) responsible for the closure decision.
- Reports of field conditions, including any damage or concerns, should be submitted by authorized personnel to the NYSA Executive Council for review and action if necessary.

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### **Policy Review:**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the NYSA Executive Council to ensure that it remains relevant and effective.