

THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
Soccer Fields, Football Fields, Baseball Diamonds and Green Spaces
WET FIELD GUIDELINE

The Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB) will enforce the following guideline and procedures when sports playing fields and green spaces become saturated.

Guideline

A commitment to maintain all TVDSB sports playing fields and green spaces to the highest industry standards will benefit all stakeholders, including Community Use of Facilities groups. Non-permitted and unauthorized use of TVDSB sports fields and green spaces will not be tolerated. Play on TVDSB sports fields will be cancelled and prohibited when ponding of water on the surface of the sports fields or saturation is present.

A field becomes saturated when the soil is not able to absorb any additional moisture, pools of water are visible on the field and water runs off the surface. Walking on the playing field will help determine if the field is saturated. Water pushed around the foot is a sign the field is saturated.

Procedures

The TVDSB Community Use of Facilities department will ensure that all permit holders for sports fields and green spaces receive a copy of the Wet Field Guideline with the copy of the approved permit. TVDSB reserves the right to close any field at any time due to adverse weather conditions. In the event of potential sports fields and green spaces closures, the Facilities Services Supervisor will contact the Community Use of Facilities Supervisor.

If the closure of the sports fields and green spaces is known prior to 3:00 p.m. on Monday to Friday, all Community Use of Facilities permit holders will be notified by email.

If the closure of the sports fields and green spaces is determined after 3:00 p.m. or on weekends, Community Use of Facilities user groups are asked to adhere to the Wet Field Guideline.

User groups are asked to evaluate the sports fields and green spaces conditions prior to use. The presence of standing water and/or saturation is an indication not to use the sports fields. Use of the field in these conditions is unsafe and extensive damage may be caused to the sports fields and green spaces. The safety of the participants, risk of liability through accident or injury and the unnecessary expense of repairs to the sports fields and green spaces are to be considered. Use of sports fields and/or green spaces should be discontinued if the conditions are deteriorating during use.

A Community Use of Facilities user group that ignores the Wet Field Guidelines will incur the following consequences:

1. The permit holder will be required to pay for damages arising from use of the sports fields or green spaces in unsatisfactory conditions where the user group is proven responsible for the damages.
2. The permit holder will be liable and responsible for accidents or injuries incurred due to unsafe conditions.
3. The permit will be cancelled and future permits for use of the sports fields or green spaces may be denied.

In the case that TVDSB closes the sports fields and/or green spaces, the booking will be cancelled from the permit and a credit will be applied to the permit holder's account. There will be no revision or cancellations fees applied.

Permit holders that are not able to use sports fields or green spaces due to unplayable conditions are to notify the Community Use of Facilities department within 48 hours to receive a credit for the unusable space.