



## **Sports Grounds Closure Policy (March 1, 2015)**

The Town of Rosetown 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 services are provided, it is crucial that the Town takes steps to maintain the Sports Grounds protect the athletes who utilize them and the spectators who attend the facilities to cheer on the athletes.

### **Objective**

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 the 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 Rosetown

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

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

### **Policy**

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 repercussions as outlined below.

### **Guidelines and Procedures**

1. Field Inspection and Decision
  - a. The decision to close the Sports Grounds will be made by the Parks and Recreation Staff in consultation with the Recreation Director 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 the decision made to close the Sports Grounds on the day of inclement weather the Sports Grounds shall remain closed till 2:00pm the following day, unless the Town notifies otherwise.
- c. Closure will be dependent on the following criteria, as determined at the sole discretion of the Parks and Recreation Staff of the Recreation Director.
  - i. If there are visible pools of water on the sports grounds
  - ii. If water sponges when the Sports Grounds 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 Grounds; and
  - v. If the ground clings or cakes to cleats and or shoes.
- d. The Sports Grounds field may remain open if they are in playable condition however the roads to the sports grounds may be closed due road conditions and the lack of dry parking. Users will be encouraged to park in the arena parking lot and walk into Sports Grounds.

## 2. Notification

All decision regarding Sports Ground closures will be handled in the following process:

- a. A Town employee will contact the manager or coach to inform them of the Sports Grounds closure, or
- b. By calling the Town office at 306-882-2214

## 3. Repercussions

Those who contravene any decision made with regards to Sports Ground closures will initially be given a warning in respect of their violation. Should violators be found in contravening a second time, that team or group will be suspended from using all Town-owned Sports Grounds for the remainder of the season. In the event damage occurs to the Sports Grounds the user group deemed responsible will be required to pay for any damages.

## 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 judgement and caution at all times, and are not entitled to rely solely upon the inspection and decision of the Town.