

Home Game Postponements

Created: 10/12/2024

To be reviewed: 01/01/2026

To be reviewed by: Football section Committee

Purpose

- To provide clarity for team coaches on the policy for calling off home games
- To provide as much notice as possible to coaches/players/parents/guardians that games will be postponed
- To ensure that a club-wide approach to game postponements is applied
- To avoid unnecessary fixture changes/reversals

Scope

The policy covers all Huddersfield Laund Hill AFC home fixtures for both Senior and Junior teams, regardless of where they are played.

Policy

The overarching principles of the policy are to ensure games are:

- Not played when this would result in significant damage to the playing surface,
- Not played when this would put players/officials/spectators at risk of injury/harm,
- Not played when the pitch and/or weather conditions and/or the state of required equipment/club infrastructure/surrounding grounds mean it is not safe for a game to be played.

For games played at Laund Hill Community Sports Park

In case of predicted inclement weather, or during a period of inclement weather

- For games being played on Saturday or Sunday, pitch inspections will be undertaken by a nominated member of the club committee on/before Friday, where possible. The nominated member will check the state of all pitches and surrounding grounds.
- Where it is not possible to inspect on/before Friday, or inclement weather is predicted nearer to the time of the game, a nominated member of the club committee will inspect all pitches at an appropriate time during the weekend. The nominated member will check the state of all pitches and surrounding grounds.

In all cases, one of the following decisions will be made:

- ALL games due to be played (including on the 3G) will be postponed,
- Games on grass pitches will be postponed,
- Games on the 3G pitch will be postponed.
- There is no requirement to postpone games (based on the state of the pitches/grounds at the time of the inspection).

In case of inclement weather close to kick off, or during the game (including pitch inspections required on the morning of the game/before the game)

- Individual team coaches, or the appointed referee, should make the decision on whether it is safe and/or appropriate to start/continue the game. The decision on whether to proceed should include an assessment of the surrounding grounds e.g. car park, as well as the state of the relevant pitch. The purpose and overarching principle of this policy, as well as relevant League/FA policies, should be considered when deciding if a game can go ahead.

For games played at other venues

Where a venue owner, or the Local Authority (Council) decides that the venue is not fit for games to be played, the game will not be played at that venue. If a suitable alternative is available at Laund Hill Community Sports Park, the game may be moved with the prior agreement of the member with responsibility for pitch allocations.

Individual team coaches, or the appointed referee, should make the decision on whether it is safe and/or appropriate for the game to go ahead, including an assessment of the surrounding grounds/roads. The purpose and overarching principle of this policy, as well as relevant League/FA policies, should be considered when deciding if a game can go ahead.

Communication

All decisions to postpone games on a club-wide basis, will be communicated in the LH Coaches WhatsApp group.

Coaches are asked to communicate postponement decisions to parents/players/guardians as soon as possible following a decision being made. Where possible, fixtures should be reversed in line with League rules.

Unforeseen circumstances

For any circumstances not outlined in the policy above, a decision will be made by the football committee and will be binding on all teams.