



ARTHUR GRIFFITH PARK FC

Adverse Weather & Event Cancellation Policy

Policy Statement

Arthur Griffith Park FC is committed to ensuring that the **safety and well-being of our players, coaches, volunteers, parents, guardians, officials and spectators is the number one priority of the club at all times.**

This responsibility applies not only during football activities, but also when travelling **to and from training sessions, academy sessions, matches and other club events.**

Where adverse weather or unsafe conditions present, or are reasonably expected to present, a risk to anyone involved in a club activity, Arthur Griffith Park FC may cancel, postpone, relocate, shorten or suspend the activity.

No training session, match or club event is more important than the safety of our members and their families.

Scope

This policy applies to all activities organised or overseen by Arthur Griffith Park FC, including academy sessions, team training, home and away matches, friendly matches, tournaments and mini-leagues, club events and any other football-related activity organised by the club.

Safety Considerations

Decisions will be based on the overall risk associated with the weather conditions and will not be limited to whether a pitch is playable.

Travel to and from the event: Road and travel conditions will be considered when deciding whether an activity should proceed. Snow, ice, flooding, high winds, poor visibility or severe weather warnings may make travelling unsafe even where the playing surface itself remains usable.

Conditions during the event: Heavy rain, thunderstorms and lightning, strong winds, snow, ice, extreme cold, extreme heat or other severe conditions may create an unacceptable risk to players, coaches, officials and spectators.

Playing surfaces and facilities: Waterlogged, frozen, flooded or otherwise unsafe pitches will not be used. The condition of surrounding areas, pathways, car parks, equipment and facilities may also be considered.

Weather forecasts and official warnings: The club may take account of forecasts and weather warnings when making decisions. An event may therefore be cancelled in advance where conditions are expected to deteriorate.

Age and nature of the activity: Particular consideration will be given to younger players participating in our academy and underage teams. Conditions that may be manageable for an adult team may not necessarily be appropriate for younger children.

Decision to Cancel or Postpone

The club will always adopt a **safety-first approach**.

Where there is a reasonable concern that travelling to or from an event, or participating in the event itself, could place players, families, coaches, officials or spectators at unnecessary risk, the activity should not proceed.

For club-wide cancellations, the final decision will normally be made by the **Chairperson or another authorised club official**.

Team managers and academy coordinators may also cancel or suspend an activity where conditions at their particular venue are unsafe. If conditions deteriorate after an activity has begun, coaches and managers have the authority to stop the activity immediately.

Where a league, local authority, facility operator, referee or other relevant authority closes a facility or declares a fixture unplayable, the club will comply with that decision.

Communication

Arthur Griffith Park FC will make every reasonable effort to communicate cancellations or changes as early as possible through appropriate club communication channels.

However, weather conditions can change quickly and **safety must take priority over providing advance notice**. Activities may therefore occasionally need to be cancelled or stopped at short notice.

Parents and guardians remain responsible for assessing their own individual travel circumstances. **No player will be expected or pressured to attend an activity where their parent or guardian believes that travelling is unsafe.**

Lightning and Sudden Deterioration

Where lightning, severe winds, flooding or another immediate weather hazard develops during an activity, coaches or club officials should stop the activity where continuing could place participants at risk. Players should be directed to an appropriate safe location and should not return to the playing area until conditions are considered safe.

Protection of Playing Facilities

Activities may also be cancelled where using a pitch would cause significant damage to the playing surface. Protecting pitches and facilities helps ensure that they remain safe and available for future training sessions and matches. However, **protection of facilities will always be secondary to the safety of people** when making decisions under this policy.

Rescheduling and Refunds

Where possible, Arthur Griffith Park FC will attempt to rearrange cancelled activities, taking into account the availability of pitches, facilities, coaches, teams and officials.

It may not always be possible to reschedule individual training sessions, academy sessions, matches or other activities.

Where an entire paid programme or term is cancelled by the club and cannot be delivered or reasonably rescheduled, the club will consider the appropriate refund arrangements. Individual sessions cancelled because of adverse weather will not normally qualify for a partial refund.

Our Safety Principle

Arthur Griffith Park FC recognises that football is important to our players and families, but **the safety of our members and the wider club community will always come first**.

IS IT SAFE TO TRAVEL THERE?

IS IT SAFE TO TAKE PART?

IS IT SAFE TO TRAVEL HOME?

If the answer to any of these questions is reasonably considered to be NO, the activity should not proceed.