

HYFL/HSC season start and pitch-condition update

We hope you are enjoying the summer break.

This notice confirms the planned season start dates and explains how pitch-condition issues will be managed in line with the HYFL/HSC Inclement Weather Protocol.

Season start dates

The HYFL season (Under-12 to Under-18) kicks off on **Sunday 20 September**, and the HSC season (Under-7 to Under-11) on **Sunday 27 September**.

Pitch conditions and inspections

The recent hot weather has affected some grass pitches, although not all pitches are affected. Artificial 3G and 4G facilities, for example, will be fully playable.

As we know, during the season, pitches are inspected each week by the match referee to determine whether they are playable. A pitch may be deemed unplayable for a number of valid reasons, including being waterlogged, rutted, or otherwise unsafe for players.

Inclement Weather Protocol

As a result, some matches may be postponed and replayed at a later date, while others may be transferred to the away team's ground where this is available. In these circumstances, the HYFL/HSC Inclement Weather Protocol applies. Those processes will apply from 20 and 27 September, respectively.

Season start decision

We have been asked whether HYFL/HSC currently intends to delay the start of the season. The answer is no.

Delaying the start of the season would not change the situation. It is similar to a wet spell in winter: we do not close the league down then (indeed it is forecast that the weather in late autumn and early winter this season will be impacted by El Nino). We also do not know what the weather will be like over the next six weeks, and a number of pitches are expected to be playable, allowing matches to go ahead.

Rescheduling arrangements

All processes, procedures and guidance are in place to maximise the number of games played each week. Where matches cannot be played, either at home or away, they will be rescheduled in the usual way, as they would be during the season for any valid reason.

We hope this provides clarity and a helpful current update for all clubs.

Regards - HYFL/HSC Management Committees