3.15 Wet Weather Policy and Guidelines

Principles

1. Children’s opportunity to perform, to be safe and to enjoy the diocesan trial are paramount.
2. The safety of staff and other officials is also a high priority.
3. The event will go ahead if at all possible (it is not preferred to postpone to the alternative date).
4. Informed decisions and clear and understood communication systems and options are in place.
5. Decisions will be informed by such factors as Bureau of Meteorology reports/forecasts (as well as forecasts, if known, for alternative date), ground conditions, local Council and/or sport association decisions on grounds, the current observable weather situation e.g. rain, lightning, the nature of the activity, the age of the children, alternative dates/possibilities, pathway situation e.g. when is the deadline for nominations to the next level, possible road closures and the safety of all e.g. lightning
6. The DSHC (Diocesan Sport & Health Coordinator) in consultation with convener/s will make the decision as to whether or not the carnival/trial will go ahead.
7. The decision will be made as early as possible (preferably before school closes the day prior) but, in the interests of going ahead if at all possible, might necessitate waiting until the morning of the carnival/trial – very early.
8. If not previously postponed, the DSHC (Diocesan Sport & Health Coordinator) or his/her delegate will attempt to be at the carnival/trial venue very early on the morning of the trial to gather as much information as possible before making the decision - preferably before any participant has left home.
9. Wet weather alternative dates will be set at the same time as the main date is set – usually when the sport calendar is set in Term 3 of the previous year. Schools and officials are asked to keep the alternative date, and any travel dates, clear of other happenings that would cause children or officials to be unavailable.
10. The exception is the Diocesan Gala Day (held traditionally in the final week of Term 3) for which there is no alternative date.
11. Central locations and mid-morning (e.g. 10am) starts be considered for any trial/s most likely to be affected by wet weather/conditions e.g. tennis, cricket, softball
12. Principals be informed in a letter at the start of each year to ensure any casual employed to replace official for a diocesan event is informed that there is a possibility of postponement or cancellation, and therefore a possible postponement or cancellation of the casual.

Communication

1. Conveners and Team managers should, if in doubt, contact the DSHC (Diocesan Sport & Health Coordinator) on 02 66 220 422 or 0418 643 476 or rellison@lism.catholic.edu.au
2. The DSHC (Diocesan Sport & Health Coordinator) will be in contact with schools, conveners, team managers, as appropriate BUT all involved should be prepared to be contactable by email, website (see below) phone and fax when there is any doubt whatsoever.
3. Participants need to take responsibility from the outset for providing accessible contact details.
4. Parents (and school staff and volunteers) should ring the Diocese of Lismore Sport Infocode on 1902 262 019 and insert the following code: 1141 then go to “Cancellations” for the latest update. Home/work phones are recommended as not all mobiles will work. It is important that this service is communicated throughout the Diocesan and school community (it provides other information e.g. general sports news).
5. Attempts will also be made to utilise the Diocesan Sport Website: http://sport.lism.catholic.edu.au

Go to the Home Page to seek an announcement as to whether the event is going ahead or not.