



PLAYING SURFACE POLICY

1. PLAYING SURFACES

All grounds must be inspected for playing conditions and safety on a weekly basis as part of Brisbane Inferno's risk management process. Any issues noted during these inspections must be reported back to the committee and actioned accordingly.

1.1 RESPONSIBILITY

An appointed official of the Organising Association or venue when participating in organised competitions such as Football Brisbane, Brisbane Indoor Sports etc will conduct initial assessments based on their association or organisational rules. When an appointed official deems the ground fit for play, it is still the responsibility of the Brisbane Inferno appointed official at the ground (Team Manager, Coach or Captain) to report the status of the ground to the Committee to confirm its state.

1.2 COMMITTEE

The committee performs the assessment review function and manages the risk of appointed club officials. It is the responsibility of a member of the committee to manage the ground reports as club artefacts for future reference and to support appointed officials when required in ground assessments. The Committee will assist the appointed team official in attempting to reduce risk at a field so far as reasonably practicable if the team official requests or is unable to do so themselves. Should an appointed team official deem a ground unfit for play, they should inform the Committee. A member of the Committee may override the ground/club officials assessment, however, this should only occur after a Hazard Risk Assessment (HRA) has been conducted if a Standing Risk Profile (SRP) is not available for the conditions, or a decision summary to amend conditions of the SRP on the day, and a minimum of 2 members of the committee agree to the revised Hazard Risk Assessment

1.3 CLUB APPOINTED OFFICIALS

The Committee will appoint the following Club Officials as part of the management and risk management of the club;

- a. Team Manager
- b. Team Coach
- c. Team Captain

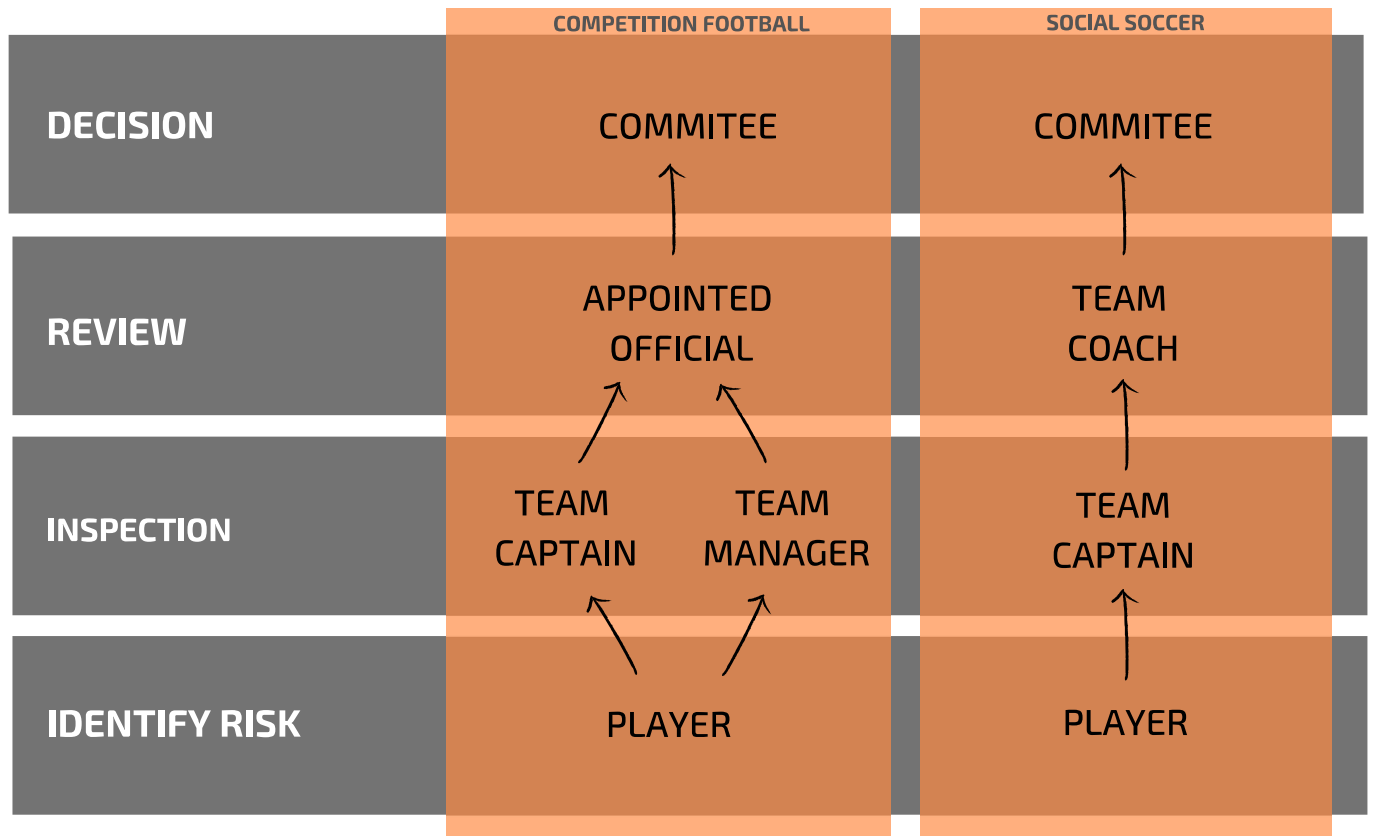
The Team Captain with the Team Manager should inspect the ground before play and complete the ground condition checklist no later than 30 mins prior to play commencement. If the ground is deemed safe to play, this checklist should be forwarded to the committee for club records. If the ground is deemed unsafe to play or there is a split assessment, the Team Captain and Manager should immediately inform the Team Coach or in the team Coaches absence a member of the committee, to review the assessment, and if necessary, develop a plan to remove the risk. Once the risk has been treated and the ground returned to a safe state, the Team Manager or Captain is to forward the assessment with corrective actions to the committee for club records. If the ground cannot be returned to a free of risk state, but the residual risk can be mitigated (i.e. removing a section of ground from play, adjusting the field size etc), the Team Manager is to immediately inform a member of the committee, which is to conduct a Decision Summary or Hazard Risk Assessment and determine the state of the ground for play. A single member of the committee can accept a risk level to low, a majority decision of the committee is required for a risk level to medium. If the risk cannot be reduced to low, play is not to be attempted.

1.4 CLUB MEMBERS

Safety is everyone's responsibility. Any club member/player may and should at any time raise a risk or safety concern, initially to the Team Captain, then the Team Coach, and/or Manager who will be required to investigate and make a recommendation of that issue to the committee in accordance with the responsibilities of Club Appointed Officials.

1.5 DECISION

If no risk is found on initial inspection or on treating the risk then the decision can be made to play at the lowest level of Team Captain and Team Manager and then reported to the committee. The process will only need to continue if residual risk needs treatment or if a split decision on the assessment at the ground occurs. A split decision in the first instance should always be taken to mean the ground is unfit for play.



2. FIELD OF PLAY

There are different types of fields on which we play, such as (but not limited to) Grass, Synthetic, unformed grounds and inside grounds. All surfaces should be checked for visible debris, that the goalposts are stable, free from exposed concrete and free from metal hooks, and nails. Ambulance access and first aid kits are also to be checked prior to games on any surface.

This policy will define surfaces into 2 categories, grass and non-grass.

2.1 GRASS

Checks should be carried out to ensure at least 75% of the surfaces are covered with grass. That there are no bare spots with hard spoil exposed. And that there are no cracks, holes, weeds, thorns that will affect players safety. The risk assessment at the end of the check should determine if the game is okay to continue.

2.2 NON-GRASS

Checks should be carried out to ensure no worn areas, rips, tears, buckling, bulging or unsecured seams are present on the surface. Whether water is readily available to wash away any undesirable fluids. The risk assessment at the end of the check should determine if the game is okay to continue.

3. CHECKLIST

The checklist should be completed before each game and is available on the Brisbane Inferno FC Website > ABOUT > POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND FORMS

4. RISK

Playing surfaces must be made a risk level no higher than LOW for a game to commence. If, after your assessment, the risk level is MEDIUM, HIGH or EXTREME and you are unable to mitigate the risk, the game must be cancelled.

5. PROCEDURES

Any ground maintenance issues are to be reported via the [Playing Surface Notification form] available on the Brisbane Inferno FC [Website > ABOUT > POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND FORMS](#)