



Manly Warringah Football Association Ltd
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15 November 2019

Attention: All MWFA Clubs

Re: Drought water restrictions and implications on our off season field usage and possible implications into the 2020 season

Dear Clubs,

I am writing following a meeting we had with the Northern Beaches Council this week in relation to the serious situation we are facing with water due to the on-going drought.

Sydney Water has informed Northern Beaches Council – and all Councils – that unless we receive a serious dump of rain, the greater Sydney area will be moving straight from the current LEVEL 1 water restrictions to LEVEL 3 water restrictions from early December.

Sydney has only ever been placed under LEVEL 3 water restrictions once in its history and during that time **no sports fields are allowed to be watered or irrigated**. Even fields that have bore water and collect rainwater in tanks for watering will not be able to be irrigated as they are empty as we have not received any rain.

This also means there will be limits on rectification and turfing after December 1.

The implications for our winter season are very real as it is during the summer months that the grass has an opportunity to rest and grow but without the ability to water the grass it will be severely compromised.

Failure to work with Northern Beaches Council on this issue will severely impact the quality of pitches for our 2020 winter season

What this means for the MWFA and our clubs is:

1. DECEMBER and JANUARY

There will be no extra allocation of fields to winter users over the current Summer allocation during the months of December and January. We need to remember that during these months it is Summer allocation anyway and the needs of those sports quite rightly need to be prioritized. We would not expect that our allocation would be diminished in August to suit Summer sports.



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2. FEBRUARY (Assuming there is no serious rainfall)

The MWFA is currently working with the Northern Beaches Council to work through the fields that will be able to handle some usage for grading days. This will include shared use of the synthetic fields.

This will be shared with all clubs as soon as it is complete

3. TRIAL MATCHES

As a result of reduced usage rates during February/March, our desire to satisfy the needs of all MWFA clubs and the objective of not trashing the fields for the rest of the season, at this stage **MWFA and Northern Beaches Council will not be approving any trial matches against clubs from outside the MWFA competition leading into the 2020 season.**

We realise this may impact clubs who have already made plans for trials and Premier League teams like to play other teams in pre season but we believe it is far more important to preserve the fields for the 18,500 players for next season and remember that all these plans are being made due to the fact that we are in a drought.

4. MARCH AND ONWARDS

MWFA and football will take control of the field as per the traditional "Winter Period". While it is too far away to understand how much rain we will get and whether we will still be in water restrictions we can only reiterate what was stated earlier in that the state of our fields for the 2020 season will be impacted by what we do over the next few months.

Can you please make sure your teams are aware of the requirements as we enter a challenging time.

Also, if you are aware of other groups (especially private academies) using the fields please pass on the information to Northern Beaches Council.

Regards

David Mason