

ROYSTON CROW Youth Football League

BEST PRACTICE **CANCELLATIONS DUE TO BAD WEATHER**

The League has received a series of complaints following the recent “cold snap” from Teams that have been made to travel to games only to find when they arrive that they will not be played, and in many cases never had any chance of being played. This is extremely frustrating at best for those involved and in the majority of cases could have been avoided with a “little bit of thought” by either Team, as with the recent weather conditions these were well known to everyone in advance. The two main causes of games not going ahead are a frozen or waterlogged pitch. The League would therefore recommend that Clubs take following actions if there is any possibility of bad weather affecting a game being played.

- (1) If following confirmation of the game the weather deteriorates to a point when the game is in doubt, the HOME Team should contact their Opponents at least the day before the game is due to be played, to inform them of the situation. They should find out when their Opponents will be leaving for the game so that arrangements can be made to inspect the pitch and prevent Teams travelling needlessly. The AWAY Team should provide a contact number to ring to confirm if the game is on or off.
- (2) If not contacted, the AWAY Team should ring their Opponents, at least the day before the game is due to be played, to find out the situation in respect of the game going ahead and what arrangements have been made to inspect the pitch. They should also confirm the time when they will be leaving for the game and provide a contact number for their Opponents to ring to confirm the status of the game. The HOME Team are then responsible for ringing their Opponents back to confirm if the game is to go ahead or not.
- (3) If you have either an appointed or qualified Referee on the game you should contact them, at the latest the day before the game is to be played, to arrange a Pitch Inspection. If in the event of the Game being covered by an unqualified Referee, that Person or an Official of the Club must undertake the inspection. It is essential that all pitch inspections are actually carried out at the Ground and that it is not just assumed that the pitch is playable because there had been another game on the pitch previously. Remember that an unqualified Referee assumes all the powers and duties of a qualified Referee when taking a game.
- (4) In the event of both Teams having gone through the above process and the AWAY Team travelling to the Ground. If in the opinion of the Match Referee it is decided the pitch is unplayable both Teams should exchange their Match Result Notification Forms as normal and write in the Comments Box that the game was postponed due to an unplayable pitch.

The above are currently Guidelines but it is recommended that ALL Clubs take these on board. Remember, it could be your Team that travels needlessly so give the same consideration to visiting Teams you would want to receive yourselves.