

Good practice match day and training session checklist



Match day and training session checklist*

Date _____

Home Team _____ Away Team _____

The ground is free from debris (glass, stones, faeces, windrows, etc) Yes No
If **NO**, what action was taken? _____

Sprinkler heads and taps are covered and level with the surrounds Yes No
If **NO**, what action was taken? _____

The ground is free from holes or uneven sections that could cause tripping and falls Yes No
If **NO**, what action was taken? _____

The padding of goal (and point) structures is adequate Yes No
If **NO**, what action was taken? _____

The weather conditions are safe for play to commence Yes No
If **NO**, what action was taken? _____

The perimeter fencing and signage is safe and secured Yes No
If **NO**, what action was taken? _____

There ground and surrounds are free from other hazards that create danger for players Yes No
If **NO**, what action was taken? _____

There are appropriate first aid personnel, equipment and phone contact with emergency services should it be required. Yes No
If **NO**, what action was taken? _____

Any other comments regarding ground safety? _____

Prior to the commencement of play/training, I/we have undertaken the above inspection and agree that the playing surface is **unsafe** / **safe** for play to commence.

Home team representative name

Away team representative name

Signature

Signature

**This checklist includes guidance notes for those conducting the inspection (see over).*

Good practice match day and training session checklist

Inspection Notes

Debris

This is an obvious hazard but requires careful visual inspection. Glass, aluminium cans that have been mown over, rocks and general rubbish are often littering sports grounds. Other debris includes syringes, faeces and windrows of mown grass that can cause tripping injuries.

Sprinklers

Recessed sprinkler heads on sports grounds are normally made safe by a cover. Erosion of the surrounds of the sprinkler caused by water pressure should be made level with the surrounding ground. A player should be able to run across this area and directly place a foot on the top of the sprinkler area with no disruption to the stride pattern or gait.

Holes and uneven surfaces

Pot holes, divots and depressions are hazards that arise for many reasons on sports grounds. They are easily repaired by adding sand or soil and should be tamped to provide a stable surface.

Uneven surfaces typically arise through differential wear patterns (eg, goal square) and around cricket pitch areas where loose soil has a different drainage pattern to the adjacent areas and uneven, rippled surfaces can arise.

Bare patches of earth with clumped grass or weeds can also lead to uneven surfaces.

An inspection of a suspect uneven surface by walking across it with eyes shut such that it makes the person feel very unsure about their footing indicates that this area requires repair.

Padding

Padding should be on all upright goal posts to a minimum height of 2.5 m. It should be a minimum of 35 mm thickness, be in good condition and securely fixed to the upright (goal, behind structures).

Weather conditions

The major and serious risks arising from hazardous weather conditions relate to the prospect of localised lightning and the combination of wind, rain and cold leading to hypothermic conditions and conditions of extreme heat.

Where appropriate, the weather situation as it relates to player safety should be considered in an ongoing manner throughout match day.

Perimeter fencing

Perimeter fencing should be checked for protruding wire, pipes, bolts and loose and sharp edged signage. At all times the appropriate safety distance from boundary line to the fence (Australian Rules football = 5m, cricket and soccer = 9m back, and 6m sides) should be considered.

Other hazards

From time to time abnormal situations are created that cause hazardous conditions for players. This could be man-made (eg, vandalism by drivers doing wheelies on ground), structural (eg, burst water main) or natural (eg, flooding, snow etc). Common sense should be used and player safety considered first and foremost.

When particular hazards cannot be eliminated consideration should be given (as in golf) to creating an Out of Bounds area where no play is possible.

Disclaimer

This publication may be of assistance to you, but the State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence that may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.