



Quality/Condition of Sporting Facilities Policy

Statement of Context

- The AGSV oversees competition in a range of sports at a range of venues. At AGSV schools, the quality / condition of the venue is primarily the responsibility of the host school. At 'external venues', in most cases secured by commercial arrangement, the quality / condition of the venue is primarily the responsibility of the provider of that venue.
- As part of its governance responsibilities, the Board of the AGSV has identified the need to provide guidelines regarding the quality / condition of sporting facilities / surfaces provided by host schools for sporting competition. For a variety of reasons which are understandable, the quality / condition of surfaces / venues will vary.

Reference Points / Background Papers

In considering this matter, the AGSV Policy Subcommittee has relied in large part on what represents community standard across a range of sports. Whilst for internal venues there are usually fairly clearly defined acceptable standards, the criteria for assessing outside venues are less precise. In recent times the foci for the consideration of the condition of external venues have been evenness of surface, grass cover, hardness of surface and related matters.

In considering this policy, the AGSV Policy Subcommittee examined the list, school by school, of every external venue currently offered for AGSV Interschool competition.

Aim

By the construction of this policy the AGSV aims to:

- reflect its Duty of Care within its primary area of focus
- ensure that the policy informs its operations

Policy details

General

- Sports Coordinators in many cases informed by grounds managers and acting on behalf of competing schools are responsible to their Head / Principal for ensuring that the quality of facilities and surfaces offered at their school for competitions, represents a safe environment within which students compete across a range of sports
- Sports Coordinators acting on behalf of competing schools are responsible to their Head / Principal for liaising with commercial and other providers to ensure that the quality of facilities and surfaces offered for competition at 'distance' from the school, represent a safe environment within which students compete across a range of sports

Specific for school venues

- Sports Coordinators informed by grounds managers will advise the Head / Principal of the host school prior to the time of competition if there is a significant doubt regarding the quality / condition of a particular venue
- If appropriate, further tests (see Appendix 1) will be overseen by Sports Coordinators with subsequent advice to the Head / Principal

Specific for external venues

- Sports Coordinators informed by commercial providers will advise the Head / Principal of the host school prior to the time of competition if there is a significant doubt regarding the quality / condition of a particular venue
- If appropriate, further tests (see Appendix 1) will be overseen by Sports Coordinators with subsequent advice to the Head / Principal

Communication

- This policy will be communicated by the Chair of the Heads / Principals to the Executive Officer and the Chairperson of the Sports Coordinators Committee.
- The Executive Officer and the Chairperson of the Sports Coordinators Committee will advise all competing schools Sports Coordinators of the Policy and the implications of the policy at a meeting prior to each season of competition.

Implications for Practice

- The position descriptions for the Executive Officer and the Chairperson of the Sports Coordinators' Committee must reflect precisely the responsibilities indicated here
- Position descriptions for Sports Coordinators within competing schools must reflect precisely the responsibilities indicated here
- The Sports Coordinator(s) of a host school should where practicable, make appropriate assessments of facilities and surfaces prior to a sporting competition in consultation with the School's grounds manager
- The Sports Coordinator(s) should carry a mobile phone for contact throughout the period of competition on the relevant day
- Position descriptions for Sports Coordinators within competing schools must reflect precisely the responsibilities indicated here