

## **TRAINING AREAS**

The allocation of training areas is often a contentious issue due to number of teams requiring limited training areas. The purpose of this procedure is to provide transparency and timelines for speedy allocation of training areas.

### **Areas Available:**

The areas available for training may vary from year to year. The football committee will advise from various grounds men those areas that are available:

#### Current Areas available are:

Stadium Pitch	all year	Only when authorised by Grounds man
Mclennan 1-3	January-March April-September October- December	through arrangement with cricket club only Booked areas through arrangement with cricket Club only.
Mclennan 4,5	January February March-December	available (space available) grading until 6-30 then available available (space available)
Army Camp	All year	available (space available)
Bruce Pulman	January- March April-August	Not available small whites only
Other areas	as advised  As arranged	club does have access at a cost For wet weather areas.  coaches can arrange their own areas But the onus is on the coach to obtain permission for area owner and no costs are to be bourn by club.

### **Definitions**

space available means that teams finds areas to train with exception of priority teams first come first served each evening. All teams should work together.

Priority Teams Ladies and Mens First Teams or Pre Season Training Squads. All other teams have equal status. Note club Teams normally have priority over any other training squads.

Competition Teams 10<sup>th</sup> Grade and above including all Senior Teams  
Non Competition Teams 7<sup>th</sup> –9<sup>th</sup> Grade Inclusive  
Small Whites 5 and 6<sup>th</sup> Grades

Youth 13<sup>th</sup> -17 Grades  
Junior 8-12<sup>th</sup> grades  
Midget 5-7<sup>th</sup> Grades

Senior U19s  
Northern League  
AFF Open (Mens and Womens)  
Over 30s (mens)  
Over 35s (mens)

Graded Teams 8<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> grades

### **Ground Closure**

- Grounds are either closed by the Council or Bruce Pulman Trust for Bruce Pulman Park or the Club for Mclennan Park or Army Camp.
- Where grounds are closed by the council this applies to all teams regardless of status and the club expects all teams to respect the decision.
- Where the grounds are closed by the club, priority teams may be given access to certain areas. All other teams must keep of the grounds as per closure instructions.
- Grounds are closed where due to ground conditions or maintenance requirements it is considered prudent to allow for competition games to be played on Playing Days.
- Notification of Ground Closure – It is normally not practicable to advise teams in advance that grounds will be closed. Where it is possible it will be via email to team coaches. Otherwise it is done by use of signs.
- Closed Sign at entrance to grounds (including perimeter of Mclennan Park) means that all areas are closed.
- Closed sign in center of training area or pitch means that training area or whole pitch only is closed
- Closed sign at end of pitch means that end only is closed

- If any teams area is closed then they either cancel their training or ask to share with another coach or utilize a spare area if any. No team can move a team out of their training area due to perceived higher status.

## Preseason Training

### Seniors

Normally starts in January for first teams (including reserves), slowly senior teams come on line as more people decide on playing. Once first team selections take place other teams are formed, reserve and third team and so on. Non selection teams are normally formed by individuals or groups of people. Training normally takes place at McLennan Park on a space available basis – must work around cricket club requirements happens after 6-30pm. As each team is formed and has either a coach or controller appointed then the Respective club captain ascertain training area needs and reasons for request – these are then forwarded to the football committee.

### Juniors

- Graded teams grading starts the first week after registrations (normally first week in February). Grading for mixed (primarily boys teams) takes place at the Army Camp or field 4 and 5 prior to 6-30pm. Age Group Convenors advise when grading will take place and request grading space – if necessary the Co-ordinator may allocate areas if conflicts exist.
- The Convenor is required to advise number of teams, allocation of teams and coaches names to admin by the first week in March. At the same time he/she needs to ascertain from coaches their preferred training night , times and places. The request should include a reason for request especially for teams requesting training on a Thursday or Tuesday night. This is collated and advised to the groundsman of the area requested. by the end of the first week in March.
- Non Graded Teams have a team muster during the first week in March at this meeting (with parents) coaches and managers are appointed. The teams are asked to come up with a training area request. This is collated by the evening co-ordinator who will forward requests to groundsman of the area requested by the end of the First Week in March.

## Allocation of Training Grounds

- On receipt of applications (by the end of the first week in March) – applications after this time will be done on a space available basis.

- Grounds are allocated in half pitch lots or areas (for training areas off pitches) all Half pitches will be allocated a number based on pitch number then the letter a or b. (location will normally be a is area of pitch furthest from the club rooms). Training areas will be allocated by number only the area will be displayed via map issues to teams and placed on club room windows)

#### Allocation Rules

- Up to 5pm - Midgets have priority of allocation teams may be allocated two to a half field as required
- 5-6.30 pm - Youth and Junior Teams have priority
- Half pitches would normally be allocated to 11 aside teams first and Training areas to small sided teams.
- 6-30 onwards – Senior Teams have priority 1<sup>st</sup> Teams and Reserve Teams should have allocated adjacent half fields.

One receipt of applications the person responsible for allocation of fields (while this is often the respective grounds person, it does not have to be the Chairman of the football committee will advise who will allocate training grounds prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> of February to Convenors and Club Captains) will collate the requests.

Where there are sufficient training areas available allocation will be done in accordance with the rules above where necessary.

Where there are more teams requesting areas than fields available then applications for grounds will be checked for qualification in regards rules above. If there are still too many teams then, after allocation of grounds to first teams and reserves with the remaining training areas:

Where there are sufficient training areas but not necessarily of the right size then priority for half pitches is given to teams based on division they are playing in. That is a 13<sup>th</sup> Grade Division 1 team would get priority with a half pitch than 15<sup>th</sup> Division 2 team. Notwithstanding where teams are training twice a week 11 aside teams should get at least 1 half pitch once a week.

The person is to take into consideration reasons for request in the following order

- A person who works for the club on a frequent basis and has a need to be at the club for club business after training gets priority over other teams.

- The team would need to find another coach due to the coaches commitments
- Apart from coaching the person concerned on a frequent basis assists the club in other matters
- Other reasons not covered above
- Names drawn from Hat (note this is a last resort if it cannot be sorted)

The person then advises The Football Chairman who will endorse the allocation and publish a draft list to coaches no later than the start of the third week in March.

On receipt of the list coaches may appeal to the football committee the decision, such appeal must be in no later than 3 days after publication of draft list. The football committee appoints a panel of no less than 3 people to hear the appeal and either uphold or deny. The panel then advises the appellant, where the appeal is upheld the Panel must then select the next least worthy team and advise that coach of the change. Once all appeals have been heard the final list is published.

Once the draft list is published, any teams who require grounds for training for any reason will be allocated remaining areas on a first come first served basis. Note regardless of perceived status of team or need they cannot take priority over a team who has already been allocated a ground, unless the coach of that team agrees to move.