

Sportsgrounds (Council / School) Water Restrictions requirements

A sportsground is defined as a ground for competitive scheduled sport i.e. football/cricket matches. It does not include passive open space areas or school playgrounds.

Sportsgrounds watering under water restrictions must be carried out in accordance with the Drought Response Plan (available from your water utility's website, see bottom panel for web addresses) and prevailing level of restrictions.

- Stage 2** – Exempt playing surfaces **only** at sportsgrounds may be watered. (Refer to Drought Response Plan for full details regarding definition of exempt playing surfaces, and watering times for automatic and manual watering systems or other methods).
 - An automatic system only as required between midnight and 8.00 am on alternate days
 - A manual system only as required between 6.00 am and 10.00 am, and, 8.00 pm and midnight on alternate days
 - Sportsgrounds with an address and street number to be watered in accordance with alternate days requirements of water restrictions.
 - Sportsgrounds with no street number to be watered on even numbered dates
- Stage 3 and 3a** - Exempt playing surfaces **only** at sportsgrounds may be watered. (Refer to Drought Response Plan for full details regarding definition of exempt playing surfaces, and watering times for automatic and manual watering systems or other methods).
 - An automatic dripper system only as required between midnight and 8.00 am
 - A manual dripper system only as required between 6.00 am and 10.00 am, and, 8.00 pm and midnight
 - Hand Held Hose with Trigger Nozzle, watering can or bucket only as required between 6.00 am and 10.00 am

And in each case above

- Either or both of Sunday and Wednesday for an odd street number
- Either or both of Saturday and Tuesday for an even street number or property with no number.
- No watering is permitted on Monday, Thursday and Friday.

Notes:

- Under Stage 2, 3 and 3a, for areas other than exempt playing surfaces – a lawn area or any non-exempt playing surface must not be watered at any time.
 - **If you comply with the requirements of the Drought Response Plan and water restrictions schedule, no submission to the water utility is required.**
 - If watering cannot be done in compliance with these requirements, it may be possible to gain approval for a Water Conservation Plan that allows variations of watering practices from the above restrictions.
- A Sportsground may be watered otherwise in accordance with a Water Conservation Plan prepared by the operator and approved by the water utility.
 - The purpose of a Water Conservation Plan is to deliver quantifiable water savings from the sportsground and irrigation management water use at that sportsground while allowing variations of watering practices from the above restrictions.

Notes:

- Approval of a Water Conservation Plan allowing watering of other than an exempt playing surface will specify conditions regarding the method and timing of that watering and may include other conditions such as recording meter readings.
- If you are watering only normally exempt surfaces but need to water outside the times and days specified in the Drought Response Plan, you may submit an application for exemption stating valid reasons and showing that no more water will be used under the variation sought.

General application – Water Saving Requirement

Stage 2

- 25% savings (minimum) of outdoor water use of the organisation based on any continuous 12-month cycle falling within the period of Permanent Water Saving Rules (ie 1 March 2005 and 31 August 2006).
- Saving can come from either outdoor use, or the organisation's overall water use through implementation of water efficient alternatives. (To the volume required – e.g. organisation uses 2,000 litres overall, outdoor 1,000, therefore total saving required 250 **from within the 2,000 litres**).
- **Conditional** watering of Sportsgrounds Turf (in addition to exempt playing surfaces as already allowed under restrictions). Grounds to use rationalisation/sharing for competitions, and prohibitions on training for some grounds is preferable and encouraged during Stage 2 - 1 ground in 4 is suggested.

Stage 3 and Stage 3a

- In Stage 3, ground rationalisation to 1 ground in 4 of previously watered sportsgrounds is required, with the 25% saving at each of those sportsgrounds (e.g. organisations with 1 to 4 sportsgrounds may water one, those with 5 to 8 sportsgrounds may water two, schools with 9 to 12 sportsgrounds may water three).
 - For a school or other organisation* that has only 1 sportsground, and is not expected to make further savings due to the inability to rationalise sportsground numbers compared to Stage 2, the school or organisation must also participate in the Schools Water Efficiency Program (SWEP), or carry out equivalent activities in the case of an organisation that is not a school. For further details on the SWEP, see the Department of Sustainability and Environment Website under 'Water' (<http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/dse>).
- * 'other organisation' includes sports clubs, universities, community clubs, and similar.

Allowances and requirements under approved water conservation plan:

- No watering of general use (open space/passive recreation area) turf areas.
- In cases where a site is being watered under the approved plan, a sign may be produced and displayed prominently in each area – this may be required as a condition of approval of the plan, wording for sign must be:

'Working with water restrictions under an approved water conservation plan to save water'

Exemptions may be revoked at any time by the water utility in writing to your organisation.

Exemptions automatically cease when a higher stage of restrictions is imposed.



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