



POLICY REGISTER

Sport Safety Guidelines/Policy for users of the Balranald Shire Council Sporting Facilities

Policy adopted: 2022

Reviewed: 2025

File Ref: D25.106515

Issue.	Prepared/Revised by and Date	Action/Amendment Description	Approved By and Date
1.0	21.02.2017	First Edition	Minute No. 02.17.3924
2.0	15.04..2025	2 nd Edition	Minute No. 2025/78

In the interests of community sports safety and injury prevention, Balranald Shire Council has developed the following sports safety guidelines for all users - both one-off and permanent - of Council's sporting facilities.

The purpose of these guidelines is to ensure that all users of Council's sporting facilities adopt good sports safety practices and are aware of how they can make participation in their sport as safe and enjoyable as possible. It is expected that all users will abide by the compulsory requirements in these guidelines. It is hoped that all users will implement the recommended safety practices to the best of their ability.

All users of the Balranald Shire Council Sporting Facilities are required to adhere to the safety policies and guidelines (including Codes of Behaviour) recommended by the governing body for their specific sport.

In addition, **all users of the Balranald Shire Council sporting facilities must:**

1. Maintain a current public liability insurance policy in joint names of the club/organisation and the Balranald Shire Council for a minimum of \$10,000,000
2. Conduct a safety inspection, using the checklist provided, of the playing surface and facilities prior to all use (including training) and:
 - rectify and/or remove all minor safety hazards before use;
 - inform Council of all safety hazards requiring Council attention;
 - not use the facility or playing surface if the inspection indicates that it is unsafe to do so.
3. Ensure there is an emergency action plan in place including:
 - access to a telephone at all times
 - designated, clear and unlocked access for emergency vehicles at all times
 - appropriate strategies for dealing with head and spinal injury
4. Make all fittings and fixtures safe for use prior to the commencement of use
5. Ensure adequate separation of spectators and officials from the playing arena
6. Use, and comply with the information provided by the Balranald Shire Council Sporting Facilities Wet Weather Line
7. Suspend or cancel use of the facility during periods of adverse weather including electrical storms and excessively heavy rain
8. Comply with relevant child protection legislation

It is recommended that all users of the Balranald Shire Council sporting facilities ensure that:

1. a fully stocked first aid kit, including an ice pack, is available at all times
2. a qualified first aider is in attendance at all times
3. all coaches are appropriately qualified
4. all referees and umpires are appropriately qualified
5. appropriate protective equipment is worn by all participants at all times – protective equipment should be properly fitted and comply with relevant standards.
6. records are kept of all significant injuries
7. all relevant medical and injury history information about participants is passed on to team officials before participation
8. adequate warm-up, stretching and cool down exercises are completed by all participants
9. appropriate action is taken to ensure protection from over exposure to the sun
10. that participants have access to clean drinking water and are encouraged to have individual water containers
11. appropriate steps are taken to prevent the spread of infectious diseases and to comply with infection control practices for a bleeding player
12. people under the influence of alcohol or drugs are not permitted to participate

To support these Sports Safety Guidelines the following sports safety information is available to all users of Council's sporting facilities at the time of their signing a hire and use agreement with Council:

Checklists

- Pre-use Safety Inspection Checklist
- Pre-participation medical information form
- Injury record keeping form
- What clubs should know about their coaches checklist

Guidelines and Policy Statements

- Warming-up, stretching and cooling-down to prevent injury
- Fluid replacement and sport in hot weather
- Emergency action planning
- Codes of Behaviour
- Infectious Diseases
- Head and Spinal Injury
- SunSmart Sport information Kit
- Children and Sports Safety Guidelines

INFORMATION

- How to become a Smartplay Club guidelines
- An information leaflet on the use of protective equipment in sport
- What should be held in a sports first aid kit leaflet
- Program of Sports Safety Training Courses available in Ryde

For further information about sports safety and how your club can continue to ensure safe and enjoyable participation in sport contact:

- Sports Medicine Australia (NSW) 9660 4333, or
- NSW Department of Sport and Recreation 13 13 02.