

Section 5 UNPLAYABLE COURTS

A court is considered unplayable if there is a reasonable chance of someone sustaining an injury during the match. Conditions that can make a court unplayable are, but not limited to:

- Rain
- Plant growth over the court, i.e. Moss, mould, algae etc.
- Broken or malfunctioning nets
- Issues with the surface of the court, i.e. Reasonable sized holes or bumps in the main area of the court

When issues arise with courts relating to ongoing fitness for play, clubs must notify the relevant Competition Secretary of the issue and the expected recommencement of use, and move any affected matches away from these courts.

NOTE: whenever moisture is apparent on the surface of the court, efforts should be made by the players to remove this before commencing play. Suitable equipment, in good condition, should be readily available to do this, i.e. squeegees for hard courts and rollers for synthetic grass.

Plexipave, a common surface within Tennis Geelong, is known to become quite slippery, especially on older courts where the grit from the surface has worn away and moss, mould and/or algae has started to grow. These factors need to be considered when determining whether courts are playable.

Two examples of determining whether a court is playable are:

A) Overnight rain has left courts wet. The next day is cold and sunny, but the courts have trees creating shadows across the courts, and even after the use of squeegees, are not likely to dry in a reasonable time. The surface has some moss on it, and when scuffing a foot over the surface, there doesn't seem to be a lot of grip.

There is a reasonable chance of injury created by external conditions, therefore this court could be considered unplayable.

B) Overnight rain has left the courts wet. The next day is cold and sunny, and as there is no shade over the courts it looks like they are starting to dry out. After squeegeeing, most of the surface water is removed, and the courts continue to dry, so after a short delay and both teams are happy, play can commence.

Synthetic grass is the next most common surface within Tennis Geelong, and due to the nature of the carpet fibres and sand, tend not to be as slippery as plexipave, however, they can become water logged, which can have the potential to cause injury. This may be due to rain over days before play, and not enough time or the right conditions to dry out sufficiently.

Two examples of determining whether a court is playable are:

A) It has rained overnight, but is a clear day. The courts have a sheen to them. Excessive amounts of water have been removed with rollers, and the courts still have a sheen of water over some or all of the surface. When walked on, there is the sloshing sound associated with walking in/on water.

These courts are waterlogged and need quite some time to dry out. These courts could be considered unplayable.

B) It has rained overnight, but is a clear day. There is a wet sound when they are walked on. The courts are rolled and some water is removed. There is no sheen or puddles on the court, and the sound when walking over the court is better than before rolling. These courts are not waterlogged, and when both teams are happy, play can commence.

In all instances common sense should be applied, and player safety the primary concern.