



Sydney Metropolitan League North West Division

Game Deferral Policy

From time to time we receive requests from teams to defer games because many of the regular players are away.

We have spent some time agonising over the problem these requests cause.

On the one hand:

- We do want games to be played not forfeited.
- We do want teams to play at full strength.
- The opposing team may be happy to play at another time rather than not play.
- We are happy to agree to the deferment if teams can organise this.
- If night games are organised there must be no cost to either the League nor to the team which agrees to the deferment.

On the other hand:

- It is a Saturday competition - so the opposing team should not be forced to play at another time, nor feel guilty if they refuse.
- A deferred game usually means that the League is left with a single game and another team then often loses having an umpire.
- There are generally no nights free to play under lights. The few grounds that have lights are fully booked. There is also the question - is it fair that a ground with access to lights can play while one who does not have access cannot? There is not enough time to play a mid-week without lights.
- Most teams would not have enough pitchers to play a double-header on a Saturday.

Because we have to be fair and apply the same rule to all requests regardless of whether the team making the request has their own lit ground, we have decided:

SMBL POLICY =

- 1. We will pass on the request from any club for a deferment. Our preference would be that the game would be played on the Sunday of the same weekend if the Saturday game is not possible.**
- 2. Teams will not be placed under pressure to agree to a deferment. If the opposing team does not agree to a deferment the game will be forfeited.**
- 3. Games must be played within three weeks of the deferment.**
- 4. Games not played at least one week before the semi finals will be considered a forfeit. Under no circumstances will deferments be granted in the final series.**

SMBL: 9.10.2007