

Yvette Berry MLA

Deputy Chief Minister

Minister for Education and Early Childhood

Minister for Homes and New Suburbs

Minister for Sport and Recreation

Member for Ginninderra

RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**Questions on Notice Paper No 1****Friday, 6 December 2024****Question No. 70****MISS NUTTALL: To ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation —**

1. Which of the ACT sports fields are currently offline, and unable to be booked.
2. For sports fields that are offline, (a) what is the reason for them being removed from use, (b) how long have they been removed from use and (c) how many days, per year on average, are sports fields in Canberra offline.

Ms Yvette Berry MLA – The answer to the Member's questions are as follows:

1. Hireable sportsgrounds which are currently offline are:
 - Greenway Enclosed Oval - offline as of 1 December in order to reseed and establish the cooch base grass a per annual maintenance requirements. Available 6 January 2025.
 - Gungahlin Enclosed Oval - offline as of 1 December in order to reseed and establish the cooch base grass a per annual maintenance requirements. Available 1 February 2025.
 - Mawson district playing field (5 fields) - unavailable to hire due to major turf renovation after excessive damage during the 2024 winter season. Still available for use by the general public. Available mid-January 2025.
 - Stirling enclosed - offline as of 28 October in order to replace the existing turf wicket.
 - Holt enclosed - offline as of 7 November in order to replace the existing turf wicket.
 - Kaleen enclosed - offline as of 16 November in order to replace the existing turf wicket.



2.

- a) Please refer to the above
- b) Please refer to the above
- c) On average, ACT Sportsgrounds are unavailable for hire for four weeks each year due to ongoing maintenance programs which is two fortnightly periods conducted prior to the commencement of the winter and summer sporting seasons.

Other, out of cycle maintenance may affect a minority of fields annually needing up to a further two weeks of work, often post the winter season due to the impact of the winter sports on the turf surfaces.

Other less predictable issues that may affect the availability of fields include:

- Temporary closure due to excessive rain fall, grounds are closed to prevent damage to the playing surface of field.
- Third party damage, vandalism or excessive localised use on the surface.
- Infrastructure failure, damage to irrigation of facilities.
- External factors, utility supply issues, extreme weather events emergency services requirements (Bushfires).

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

Yvette Berry MLA
Minister for Sport and Recreation
Date: 17/01/25

This response required 1 hrs and 15 mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$126