

## Ever Wonder What Happens to an Artificial Field Following a Flood?



When the town of Warwick in Queensland, Australia was hit with record rains in January the consequences were devastating to the entire community. While much of the damage is still being assessed the destruction of artificial sports fields was undeniable and the cost for repairs will be numbing to the community.

The Warwick Hockey Association is now faced with the financial task of recovering from the devastation after its new synthetic field was ripped up and destroyed by flood waters.



“They had just resurfaced it and it’s basically a total loss,” Cr Neil Meiklejohn, of Southern Downs Regional Council, said. “It’s probably half-a-million-dollar loss with the field alone. “There is probably about another \$100,000 damage here and the \$25,000 (State Government) grant just isn’t enough.”(as reported by Gerard Walsh in the Warwick Daily News).

Photos: Warwick Daily News

The field was used for both hockey and rugby leagues, but for now sporting activities are on hold. Warwick Hockey and the rugby teams have both vowed to continue with plans for the season. Until further notice hockey in Warwick will be played on natural turf this season.

Sporting venues in Chinchilla, Jandowae and St George, Queensland also reported damage.

**“It’s worth noting that natural turfgrass can also be damaged during such flooding, but the consequences are less severe because natural turf has the ability to repair itself.”**

- Kirk Hunter, Executive Director, Turfgrass Producers International