

Weather Contingency Best Practices

Consider the following pieces of information when developing a weather policy for your organization.

Communication

- Communication methods
 - Text, email, and alert systems
 - Be Consistent and Transparent: Use standard language so families understand safety is the top priority
 - Make sure that you create current season distribution lists for mass communication during season
 - Whenever possible BCC contacts to avoid “reply all” messages and sharing contact information with others
 - Consider using multiple alerts to get message delivered
 - Include information for families pre-season on where they can expect to find league updates or notifications during season
- Communication information
 - Decision timeline
 - Set a clear time expectation for when a weather decision will be made.
 - For example: 2 hours before the 1st game, weather related decisions will be made and communicated to families
 - Post-cancellation follow-ups
 - Communicate as soon as possible about rescheduling games
 - Make sure to thank families for their understanding, and reiterate your commitment to player safety

Extreme Temperature Guidelines

- Heat Guidelines
 - Utilize heat index, and not just temperature
 - Consider rescheduling the game(s) to cooler temperature times, such as earlier in the morning, or later in the evening to avoid peak temperatures

- Provide shaded areas and cooling stations for athletes
 - Enforce frequent water breaks (every 15–20 minutes)
 - Consider cancel if the heat index > 100°F
- Cold/ Winter Weather Guidelines
 - Use temperature + wind chill to make decisions
 - Encourage layered clothing and frequent warm-ups.
 - Cancel if wind chill < 25°F, especially for young players.
 - Consider the current road conditions to clarify if it is safe for families to travel to game(s)

Rain, Lightning & Field Safety

- Lightning
 - Follow the **30/30 rule**: if thunder occurs within 30 seconds of lightning, stop playing immediately and wait 30 minutes after the last thunder before resuming
 - Never shelter under trees or metal structures — use vehicles or indoor facilities
- Wet Fields
 - Check for standing water, muddy or slippery conditions that risk injury and/or damage to fields
 - Have a place where families can check the status of game day
 - Make sure to check with the field/venue property management, and follow any closures or guidelines they require
- Game Day Considerations
 - Determine in advance how you want to handle cancellations, including mid-game cancellations
 - Consider these options for partially completed games:
 - If the game is in the second half when cancelled, consider the score final
 - If the game is in the first half when cancelled, consider it a postponement, and schedule a makeup for a later date, continuing the game from the same time and score
 - Consider these options for game delays

- Cancel and reschedule the delayed games for another date, leaving the remainder of your day's schedule intact
- Resume the delayed game immediately when able, pushing all the day's games back by a certain amount of time (i.e. 30 minute or 1-hour delays)