



Severe Weather & Lightning Delay Policy

Purpose

The safety of players, coaches, referees, spectators, and staff is the league's top priority. This policy outlines the procedures to follow in the event of severe weather, including lightning, heavy rain, hail, high winds, or other hazardous conditions.

1. Authority to Suspend or Delay Play

- The Referee, Site Coordinator, or League Official has the authority to suspend or delay matches due to severe weather or unsafe conditions.
- Once suspended, no play may resume until the field is declared safe according to this policy.

2. Lightning & Thunder Protocol

- If lightning is seen or thunder is heard, all matches must be stopped immediately.
- Everyone must leave the fields and seek safe shelter immediately.
 - * Safe shelters include: enclosed buildings or fully enclosed vehicles with windows rolled up.
 - * Unsafe areas include: open fields, tents, under trees, metal bleachers, and near goals.

30/30 Rule:

- Wait 30 minutes after the last observed lightning strike or sound of thunder before resuming play.
- Each new occurrence restarts the 30-minute clock.

3. Severe Weather (Non-Lightning)

- Heavy Rain/Flooding: Play is suspended if fields become unplayable or unsafe.
- High Winds/Tornado Warnings: All participants must evacuate the fields immediately and follow local emergency guidance.
- Extreme Heat/Cold: League officials will follow heat index or wind chill guidelines for player safety, which may include shortening halves, adding water breaks, or suspending play.

4. Communication Procedures

- Referees/Coaches will be notified on-site of delays, suspensions, or cancellations.
- Parents/Spectators will be informed by:
 - * Field announcements (if available)

- * League-wide text/email alert system (if used)
- * Team coaches/team managers

5. Resumption of Play

- Matches will resume only when officials confirm conditions are safe.
- If games cannot resume:
 - * Games suspended before halftime may be rescheduled.
 - * Games suspended at or after halftime will be considered final with the score at the time of suspension.

6. Re-scheduling Contingency Plan

- If games cannot resume:
 - * Games suspended before halftime may be rescheduled.
 - * Games suspended at or after halftime will be considered final with the score at the time of suspension.
 - * Games suspended without starting will be rescheduled.

Reschedule Contingency Plan:

Plan A: Matches will be rescheduled and played full time.

Plan B: Matches will be rescheduled but shorter matches will be played. (15-20 min halves).

Plan C: Penalty Shootout to determine winner.

Plan D: Match is scored 0-0 and recorded as a tie.

7. Responsibility of Coaches & Parents

- Coaches are responsible for clearing their teams from the field and ensuring all players are moved to safe shelter.
- Parents are responsible for promptly picking up players if games are suspended for the day.