



WEATHER POLICY

To be proactive, during the course of the day, if weather conditions warrant, the Sportspark Management staff will make decisions related to the postponement or cancellation of play at Sportspark. When these decisions are made, the Director of Parks and Recreation will be notified and will, in turn, notify the Director of Public Works.

RAIN

The decision to postpone or cancel play can only be made after contacting the Sportspark Manager or League Manager when the following criteria are met:

- Rain chances exceed 50%
- Heavy rain is active in the area
- Sustained rain has fallen enough to collect or pool on the playing surface causing it to be unsafe

LIGHTNING (Adapted from the NCAA Guideline 1d for Lightning Safety)

Lightning is the most frequent weather hazard impacting athletics events. The following guidelines are in place:

1. In the event of potential thunderstorms, weather conditions will be monitored via the internet or phone app (Lightning Alarm, NOAA Weather Bug).
2. In addition, at any time, personnel will monitor incoming severe weather using the Flash Bang method.
To use the Flash Bang method, count the seconds from the time lightning/flash is sighted to when the clap/bang of thunder is heard. Divide this number by 5 and this equals how far away (in miles) the lightning is occurring. (For example, 20 second count = 4 miles).
3. Sportspark will postpone play if lightning is observed or if lightning is reported within 10 miles (50 second flash-bang). (NCAA recommends 8 miles (or 40 seconds flash-bang)).
4. At postponement, Sportspark will be evacuated by moving everyone into safe shelter (depending on the current number of occupants this will be to an inside location (Café) or to cars in parking areas).
5. Chain of command for evacuating athletic teams/spectators during competition: Sportspark Manager or League Manager or Designated Person in Charge → Officials → Coaching Staff → Teams & Spectators
6. No person(s) shall be allowed to open areas of Sportspark for 30 minutes after the Lightning Detector has returned to the safe range of "Storm Distance 10 and above Miles" or no indication of lightning strikes on the detector for 30 minutes.
7. The Sportspark Manager, League Manager, or the Manager on Duty will inform all parties that it is safe to return to the field of play.

WINDS

The decision to postpone or cancel play can only be made after contacting the Sportspark Manager or League Manager when the following criteria (industry standard) is met:

- Wind conditions and gusts are 40 MPH or higher.

COLD OR FROST

The decision to postpone or cancel play can only be made after contacting the Sportspark Manager or League Manager when the following criteria (industry standard) are met:

- Temperatures are forecasted to be at or below 35 degrees with wind chill or 40 degrees with precipitation.
- Snow chances exceed 50%.
- Sustained snow has fallen enough to collect or pool on the playing surface causing it to be unsafe.

HEAT

The two values that will be taken into account when modifying, postponing or canceling games are air temperature and relative humidity. The combination of these two elements reflects the heat index. We will rely on the heat index reading that is updated hourly by the National Weather Service.

The decision to modify game duration, postpone or cancel play can only be made after contacting the Sportspark Manager or League Manager when the following criteria (industry standard) are met:

- **Yellow Zone** *Heat index of 90-98 degrees.* In this range, coaches are encouraged to take extra steps to protect their players by making sure they keep them hydrated during games and practices. No steps affecting play will be taken.
- **Orange Zone** *Heat index of 99-105 degrees.* In this range, coaches need to ensure all kids have water available; catchers and pitchers should be monitored to ensure they are taking water breaks. Umpires will be reminded to monitor play. No steps affecting play will be taken.
- **Red Zone** *Heat index ranging of 106 to 115 degrees.* In this range, the length of games will be modified if they are to include a total game time of over 1 hour in this temperature range.
- **Black Zone** *Heat index above 115.* In this range, games will be cancelled until the heat index returns to 115 or below.
- Note - During the course of the day, the heat index will rise and fall depending upon the time of day, etc. The above program modifications could also change throughout the course of the day. The above are merely guidelines, and it is the responsibility of parents to make the ultimate decision as to the participation of their child in events when heat may be a factor, taking into consideration the age and physical condition of their child. Parents also have the ultimate responsibility to inform their child about the dangers of heat and need for protection, including sunscreen and proper hydration.

1. REFERENCES

www.epcountyparks.com

www.nfhs.org

<https://www.uiltexas.org/health>

<https://www.littleleague.org/university>