



Louisiana Fire Juniors RAIN OUT POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to define the steps taken in case of forecasted or actual rain which may cause the club fields to be closed. The rainout policy applies to games and practices.

Recreational / YDP

Practices affected due to rainouts will simply be cancelled and not rescheduled.

Competitive

Coaches are encouraged to reschedule their practice, have an indoor training facility on stand by for that day or other options depending on the campus:

Audubon alternative – front lawn in front of the Audubon Zoo parking lot.

Metairie alternative – Meadows field (concert area) at Lafreniere or public fields near W. Napoleon park exit

City Park alternative – Public track field behind Tad Gormley Stadium, Field or Track session

Timing of Cancellation

Weekdays - **At or as close to 3:30pm** on days which rain is forecasted, DOCs will make the decision to close the fields if they deem it necessary to preserve the condition of the fields or to keep players and families from being put in dangerous situations involving the threat of lightning.

Weekends – **At or as close to 7:00am** on Saturdays and Sundays which rain is forecasted, DOCs will make the decision to close the fields if they deem it necessary to preserve the condition of the fields or to keep players and families from being put in dangerous situations involving the threat of lightning.

– **If** it is possible for games to be played before imminent weather is due to touch down, we will allow as many games to be played as possible. In this event, DOCs will decide no more games will take place after a certain set of kick-off times.

Cancellation During Game Day

Fields may be deemed unsafe for play due to field conditions by referees or the referee assignor. Fields can also be deemed unplayable by club directors in order to preserve field conditions.

Field coordinators, age group directors, referees, and the referee assignor will have the responsibility of monitoring impending weekend weather should parks remain open and scheduled games kick-off.

On first stike of lightning, all fields will have a mandatory evacuation to the parking lot as ordered by the referee and referee assignor for a period of 20 minutes.

Resumption of games will be set back an additional 20 minutes after the most recent lightning strike in the area.

After the second strike, if any lightning occurs in the following 10 minutes, the games currently in progress will be postponed or ruled completed depending on how far into the game play was suspended.

INITIAL COMMUNICATION

RainedOut Messaging

For normal field closures at 3:30pm on weekdays and 7am on weekends, or at any other time deemed necessary, a club administrator will send a text notification to all subscribers through the RainedOut messaging system. This message is also posted to the LA Fire Facebook Page and right above the Field Status app on the LA Fire Website. We encourage all families to subscribe finding the link on the LA Fire homepage, or the Field Status page.

Earth Networks

Our Oschner Trainers will provide managers and coaches with up to date GPS tracking of lightning strikes in the area via Earth Networks. Earth Newtworks will send automated alerts to coaches, managers, and referee assignors when lightning is within the 10 mile radius that would cause a weather delay. Notice of the weather delay plan or cancellation will then be relayed through RainedOut.

Email Notification

Email notification of cancellation or delay due to weather will be sent as soon as possible. Since many of our communication administrators will potentially be at the fields while a delay or cancellation occurs, RainedOut will be used as the intial comm blast when the decision is made. The club will follow up with the notification email to managers and coaches, to be passed on to the team, as soon as possible after the decision is made.

