

200 – Weather Policy

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SAY Soccer strongly encourages SAY Areas/Districts to utilize their local weather authorities (television/media, the National Weather Service, The Weather Channel, Accu-Weather, etc.) to monitor weather conditions and make decisions regarding playing or cancelling/postponing scheduled games.

1. Lightning

- 1.1. The safety of players and participants is of utmost importance. Soccer fields can be a dangerous place during severe weather.
- 1.2. Lightning often travels sideways as far as 10 miles and can strike away from any rainfall, even when skies are blue.
- 1.3. You are in danger if you can see lightning.
- 1.4. You are in danger from lightning if you can hear thunder.
- 1.5. In the event of a storm, games and/or practices must be stopped and suspended until the danger has passed using the following minimum criteria:
 - 1.5.1. The sighting of a lightning flash or the hearing of the sound of thunder shall be reason enough to immediately stop and suspend a game or a practice session.
 - 1.5.2. Do not wait until it rains.
 - 1.5.3. Do not try to reach the end of a period or the end of a game.
 - 1.5.4. Coaches shall take their players to a safe location upon suspension of a game and/or a practice session.
 - 1.5.5. Following suspension of a game, the Referee(s) shall promptly leave the field to a safe location.
- 1.6. Play and/or practice shall not be resumed prior to 30-minutes after the last sighting of lightning or the last sound of thunder.
 - 1.6.1. On fields that utilize lightning detectors, games and/or practice sessions must also be immediately suspended upon the sounding of the alarm.
 - 1.6.2. Resumption of play and/or practice shall not occur until the all- clear alarm is sounded and the 30- minute wait period has been met.
 - 1.6.3. If the lightning detector does NOT have an all-clear function, the 30-minute time frame will apply.

2. Severe Weather

- 2.1. In general, games should NOT be played if severe weather conditions are present. Examples of severe weather conditions include, but are not limited to:
 - 2.1.1. Lighting/thunder (See Lightning Policy above),
 - 2.1.2. hurricanes/tornadoes,
 - 2.1.3. blizzards/dangerous wind chills,

2.1.4. other conditions where your local area has been instructed to stay indoors or otherwise limit exposure outside.

2.2. High/Extreme Heat Conditions

2.2.1. Unlimited water breaks should be provided to all players in each playing period, in addition to the usual breaks between periods.

2.2.2. It is the SAY Area's discretion if time for water breaks is made up during the playing period.

2.2.3. Frequent substitution is encouraged.

2.2.4. Shade in the form of canopies/tents/umbrellas are strongly encouraged for the bench areas to keep players out of direct sun.

2.3. Cold/Extreme Cold Conditions

2.3.1. Players may wear additional clothing to maintain warmth, subject to the overriding conditions of Law 4 regarding legal/illegal equipment.

2.3.1.1. Examples of additional clothing would include:

2.3.1.1.1. Pants/leggings worn under or in place of shorts,

2.3.1.1.2. Soft hats/ski caps and/or gloves,

2.3.1.1.3. Jackets/sweatshirts/etc. worn under the team jersey/shirt with their number visible.

2.4. Decision Making Authority

2.4.1. SAY Areas, Districts, and any other designated authorities may shorten any game due to weather related concerns.

2.4.1.1. The shortening of games includes reducing the playing time of each playing period or ending a game at half-time (or afterwards) as conditions warrant.

2.4.1.2. Once a game is underway, the Referee(s) also has the authority to end a game at any time for any player-related safety issue including weather (see SAY Playing Rules - Law 5).

2.5. US Soccer Resources

2.5.1. U.S. Soccer also provides detailed information related to heat/cold and other environmental concerns regarding player safety, which can be found at: <http://www.recognizetorecover.org>