

Tournament Rules on inclement weather for IBC21 4/10 & 4/11.

Short version: when game is stopped due to lightning:

- a. If the game has reached half time, the game will be deemed completed and the halftime score will be used.
- b. If the game has not started or is in the first half, the match will restart after the lightning delay.
If the weather delay is longer than the match, the match is likely to be canceled.

How will your tournament monitor approaching bad weather?

In the case of severe weather, tournament officials monitor weather with live on-site internet weather sites and radio and lightning detectors and looking at the sky. Club also has a lightning detector on site at all times. Weather related decisions are made independently at each of the 6 sites.

Who makes the decision to stop play?

Usually the Tournament Director on site. As per FIFA rules and Ref guidelines, any center ref may stop any game at any time due to lightning or other severe weather. Otherwise, Tournament Director, or assigned person, makes decision in consultation with Ref Assignor.

How are teams/referees/spectators notified of the stoppage of play?

Loud horn as per rules. Two long blasts direct to clear fields and seek shelter. This is followed up by Tournament Directors driving site in golf cart to prompt stragglers to get into (their) vehicles.

How long are games suspended with lightning?

As per FIFA rules and Ref guidelines and Club policy, play may resume 20 minutes after last lightning strike is seen.

How are teams/referees notified to go back to fields?

Two short blasts of horn and tournament officials' announcements in parking lots.

How will games be continued?

What happens to games that cannot be continued on that day?

See rules. A decision is made on site which games continue in the second half and which games are ruled completed. Some games may be rescheduled or canceled.

7. Inclement Weather

The only time a game will be delayed or canceled is if it becomes hazardous to players or spectators, such as an electrical storm or tornado warning or field conditions.

Games will be continued at the point of delay once the threat subsides. If play cannot be resumed on a timely basis, an alternate schedule will be followed as determined by the Tournament Committee which may include canceling the game.

If championship or semi-final games cannot be played due to weather, final positions will be determined by the point system with ties resolved as stated in rule #9. If the tournament cannot be completed due to weather or another act of God, no fees will be refunded.

(revised for 4/10/2021 fast moving weather)

This tournament follows the traditional "20-20 Lightning Rule" meaning there will be up to a 20 minute delay after lightning is seen. However, the event is to stop play upon each lightning seen even if thunder is longer than 30 seconds after sighting.

The Tournament Director reserves the right to cancel matches that cannot be played due to persistent inclement weather, unsatisfactory field conditions, or other uncontrollable situations, although every effort will be made to play the matches as scheduled. However, in the event that rescheduling is not possible, and game cancellation creates a situation where teams within the division are unable to play an equal number of qualifying games, the group winner will be determined on the basis of average tournament points for games played (including the tie breaking procedure). The team with the highest average points will be declared the winner of the group. In the event there is a tie which cannot be resolved by point averaging, the advancing team will be determined by a coin toss, or penalty kicks, per FIFA as directed the Tournament Director. If in the event the Championship Game cannot be played, the winner will be decided by Penalty Kicks or by coin toss.

IN THE EVENT OF WEATHER CHANGES, IT WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF TEAMS TO CHECK IN AT TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS FOR CHANGES. Scheduling information will be available on the tournament website.

8. Scoring

For games deemed complete or canceled due to weather:

If the match has reached halftime, the half time score will be the final score.

If the match is canceled before or during the first half and is not completed, the game will be scored as a 1-1 tie. Canceled or abandoned (due to long delays or field conditions) games are scored as 1-1 tie.