

HCPW Inclement Weather Procedures

Updated 9/21/21

HCPW guidelines when facing inclement weather:

- 1) **Home Field:** If the home field facility has an inclement weather plan, you must follow their rules (at a minimum). If you are not familiar with your home field's rules, please check with before any anticipated bad weather. You can always be more strict than what they provide.
- 2) **Lightning:** If the facility has a lightning detection system, you will follow that (but please be aware and double check to make sure it is functioning).

The Spark program within the [WeatherBug App or Weather Sentry](#) apps should be utilized to detect the proximity of lightning strikes. Please have a designated representative to continuously monitor the situation, with the app open and running.

HCPW recommendation (if your facility has no guidelines, you are to use the following):

- A lightning strike within a 10 miles radius, the field and stands should be cleared and all individuals should seek shelter. If there is no safe shelter, please have families take shelter in their cars.
 - A 30 minute delay will commence from the last lightning strike within that 10 mile radius. It will be reset for every lightning strike within that radius. *For example, if there is a lightning strike 8 miles away, you are to clear the field and start the 30 minute clock. If you wait 20 minutes with no lightning strike, but at 21 minutes there is a strike within that 10 mile radius, you reset the 30 minute clock and start over.*
 - A decision to call the game should be made based on continued pattern and future forecast . The game supervisor should make this call, while communicating with the coaches and association board representatives (facilities manager, Director of the Day, etc.). In order to be considerate of the families, facilities, officials, etc., and their time/cost/etc., HCPW's recommendation is that after 30 minutes of the initial delay, and lightning is still occurring, please call the game. However, if it has been non-active for 15 minutes or so, you can consider resuming. Please communicate clearly with all parties. HCPW recommends not delaying the game for more than an hour total.
- 3) **Rain:** The game can continue if it is just rain, but HCPW request that you please communicate with the opposing team head coach and the officials to ensure that it is safe to continue. However, if it becomes a safety issue or the officials are having trouble seeing, it should be put on a delay. If no lightning, only rain, use your best judgement (and work with the officials) on when the game can resume.
 - 4) **Traveling:** We ask that you please be considerate of the opposing team, as well as your families. We have several teams having to travel long distances, so I would ask that you please be in regular communication with their president and/or head coach so that a decision can be made, if necessary, far enough in advance to not inconvenience the families traveling. Traveling to games in bad weather can be incredibly dangerous. Start the conversations now so that there is a game plan.
 - 5) **Called game:**
 - **If a game is called in advance, please be sure to notify the opposing team ASAP, as well as HCPW President so that they can communicate with the officials for later games. Get the word out to families as early and as soon as possible.**

- If a game is called after it starts due to weather or field conditions, and it is a non-conference game, it will not be made up. It will be considered a no-game (essentially a tie).
- If a game is called after it starts due to weather or field conditions, and it is a conference game, we will attempt to reschedule the game at the point where it left off. However, if each Head Coach agrees to keep the score as it was at the time it was called, we will do so.

If anyone argues with you on the lightning policy, please share this article with them. I met this sweet boy a couple years ago and if there is anything we can do to prevent this from happening to anyone else, we certainly will do so. <https://www.kvue.com/article/news/local/lightning-strike-changes-central-texas-family-lives-forever/327592830>