



For EWFL Use:
Date Received:
Comments:

Policy Statement 2018-2

Game Day Cancellations

Each season, the EWFL experiences weather related and other occurrences that may prevent game play as scheduled. This policy has been proposed to provide organizations methodology in addressing these situations.

The EWFL Rules on Game Cancellations state:

If conditions warrant, the home coach may cancel a game at least four (4) hours before game time. Rescheduling shall be at the convenience of both coaches involved and the Commissioner. The Commissioner and officials are to be notified immediately of any cancellations.

If home team field is closed on Saturday and visiting team can supply a field, the game shall be played at the visiting site. Original Home team shall be required to man the entrance gates and shall receive all revenue from gate. Visiting team shall be responsible for concessions and shall receive full concession's revenue. All revenues are net of any expenses. The cost of the officials and security shall be split between the two (2) townships.

A game day forfeit whereby advance notice is not provided to the visiting team, and the league commissioner, shall be considered a violation under the league enforcement rules and the forfeiting team will be responsible for all game day expenses incurred by the home team.

Cancellations may occur for the following reasons:

- Severe Rain (Tropical Storms, Hurricanes, etc.)
- Prolonged Thunder and Lightning
- Cancellations directed by the leasing field authority (i.e. school system, parks and recreation, etc.)
- Field Conditions that are unsafe to play (i.e. fire ants, bees, significant divots, etc.)

General cancellations for convenience or for insufficient attendance without prior notice and mutual approval by both organizations and the EWFL are not acceptable.

The EWFL endeavors each season to assemble all teams with schedules in accordance with our rules and policies. The organizations must similarly endeavor to attempt all prudent measures to maintain games on schedule and on time for the enjoyment of all affiliated organizations. However, we understand that conditions do occur that are beyond our control. When these situations occur, we consider the following procedures for resolution:

1. Delay the Game: In the event of temporary situations (i.e. thunder and lightning), games may be delayed for up to two (2) hours until temporary situation passes. Beyond this period, the game should be either rescheduled or, if by mutual agreement, the game can be called and winner declared. The NFHS publishes guidelines¹ on handling games during storms as follows:

PROACTIVE PLANNING

- 1) *Assign staff to monitor local weather conditions before and during practices and contests.*
- 2) *Develop an evacuation plan, including identification of appropriate nearby safer areas and determine the amount of time needed to get everyone to a designated safer area:*
 - a. *A designated safer place is a substantial building with plumbing and wiring where people live or work, such as a school, gymnasium or library. An alternate safer place from the threat of lightning is a fully enclosed (not convertible or soft top) metal car or school bus.*
- 3) *Develop criteria for suspension and resumption of play:*
 - a. *When thunder is heard or lightning is seen*, the leading edge of the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play for at least 30 minutes and vacate the outdoor activity to the previously*

¹ https://www.nfhs.org/media/1014153/guidelines_on_handling_practices_contests_during_lightning_thunder_disturbances_march_2018.pdf

- designated safer location immediately.*
- b. 30-minute rule. Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or lightning is witnessed* prior to resuming play.*
 - c. Any subsequent thunder or lightning* after the beginning of the 30-minute count will reset the clock and another 30-minute count should begin.*
 - d. When lightning-detection devices or mobile phone apps are available, this technology could be used to assist in making a decision to suspend play if a lightning strike is noted to be within 10 miles of the event location. However, you should never depend on the reliability of these devices and, thus, hearing thunder or seeing lightning* should always take precedence over information from a mobile app or lightning-detection device.*

** At night, under certain atmospheric conditions, lightning flashes may be seen from distant storms. In these cases, it may be safe to continue an event. If no thunder can be heard and the flashes are low on the horizon, the storm may not pose a threat. Independently verified lightning detection information would help eliminate any uncertainty.*
- 4) Review the lightning safety policy annually with all administrators, coaches and game personnel and train all personnel.*
 - 5) Inform student-athletes and their parents of the lightning policy at start of the season*
2. Reschedule the Game: In general games should be rescheduled at the next available time. The EWFL will apply the following criteria in exercising decisions with organizations:
- a. Saturday Games shall be played the next day, Sunday, and begin at 2 p.m. at the same field.
 - b. Sunday Games shall be played the next Sunday and begin at 2 p.m. at the same field.
 - c. If the Home field is not available, then the Visiting team shall provide their field per EWFL rules (**above**).
 - d. If neither Home nor Visitor field is available, a mutual field may be offered or the game rescheduled to the next available day where either field is available.
 - e. Directors may also mutually agree to another date outside of criteria, but in the event that both directors do not agree, the EWFL will apply criteria and rule on game schedule. In the event either team fails to compromise or agree to the league ruling, the uncompromising team will forfeit games.

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