



## WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY

Soccer is an outdoor sport; we play in the rain, we play in the cold, and sometimes we play in ice or snow. Still, the safety of players and coaches is a prime concern. Due to rapidly changing weather conditions and in keeping with RCYSL's desire to minimize cancellations, advance notice of weather cancellations may not always be possible. It is recommended that parents, players, and coaches always show up to the field unless they have received notification from their coach or other association official.

### Criteria for Cancellation

#### 1. Due to Field Conditions or Safety Concerns:

The RCYSL board may declare the soccer fields "unplayable." Most often this is due to fields being excessively wet, however, it could also be due to extreme dryness, ice, or snow accumulation. Playing on fields which are excessively wet or dry can damage or kill the grass and potentially require fields to be left unused for several months of recovery. Smaller accumulations of slush or snow may not be a concern and soccer would not be cancelled, however, standing water, or larger amounts of ice, slush or snow could create a concern for safe soccer play and necessitate a soccer cancellation.

#### 2. Due to Weather:

As an outdoor sport, soccer is played in less-than-ideal conditions including falling drizzle, rain, sleet, and snow. However, the presence of visible lightening or audible thunder at the soccer fields and at the time of play (with or without falling rain) creates a safety concern and may necessitate a soccer cancellation. Bad weather can move through Kentucky very quickly, therefore, advance notice of weather cancellations may or may not be possible.

**Heat:** The following precautions must be followed when there is a possibility of dangerous high heat index:

Heat Index	Guidelines
Up to 89°	No adjustments necessary
90° - 99°	Two-minute water breaks per half with running time. Each half shortened by five minutes.
100° - 104°	Two-minute water breaks per half with running time. Each half shortened by ten minutes.
105°+	Suspend Play

**Cold:** The following precautions must followed when there is a possibility of dangerous cold conditions:

Heat Index	Guidelines
46° and higher	No adjustments necessary
45° and lower	Additional clothing is allowed as long as it's deemed safe by the referee
40° and lower	Shorten games five minutes per half.
35° and lower	Suspend Play



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### Cancellation Procedures

#### 1. Due to Field Conditions or Safety Concerns:

If RCYSL decides to declare the fields “unplayable” this decision will be made by 3:00 pm on weekdays and by 8:00 am for Saturday & Sunday sessions. The President/Vice-President or Risk Management Director will call or text all impacted coaches and update the RCYSL Facebook page with cancellation information.

#### 2. Due to Weather (“Advanced Cancellations”)

If RCYSL can declare a weather cancellation in advance, this determination will be made no later than one hour before the scheduled soccer start time. The President/Vice-President or Risk Management Director will call or text all impacted coaches and update the RCYSL Facebook page with cancellation information. **Coaches are not allowed to declare advance weather cancellations.**

#### 3. On-field Cancellations

If a weather cancellation is not made more than one hour before scheduled soccer start time, an on-field cancellation may be needed due to changing weather conditions. If changing weather conditions raise hope that visible lightning or audible thunder conditions will pass before scheduled start time, the “on-field” cancellation declaration will be delayed until start time. If there is visible lightning or audible thunder, the game must be suspended, and all participants are expected to seek shelter. Games cannot be resumed until 30 minutes passes without the presence of lightning or thunder.

In the event of National Weather Service warning (i.e. tornado warning), games must be suspended immediately and everyone must seek shelter.

On-field cancellations can be declared by coaches and/or the assigned referee(s). If coaches, parents, or players believe an on-field cancellation is necessitated, they should raise their concerns with the President/Vice-President, Coaching Director, or Risk Management Director as indicated. If an “on-field” cancellation is declared, it will immediately apply to all teams on all home fields with play underway or for all teams that share the scheduled start time.

All parents and players should be encouraged to leave the fields as quickly as possible, or they assume personal responsibility for any issues.

### Rescheduling of Games

RCYSL will make every effort to reschedule games cancelled due to weather. Please recognize that this is not always possible, but efforts will be made to try and make it happen.