

CITY OF CENTER POINT

Parks and Recreation Severe Weather Policy

Subject: Severe Weather Policy

Approved By: City Council

Effective Date: 7/11/2017

PURPOSE: The purpose of this policy is to increase safety during events and activities in City parks and open spaces in the City of Center Point during severe weather.

POLICY:

The Center Point Park and Recreation Department (CPPRD) has defined four heat index zones. These zones are based on recommended guidelines published by the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) for participation in sports activities during periods of extreme heat. Because the heat index does not take into account wind and direct sunlight, two degrees will be added to the started heat index on sunny and still days. Likewise, two degrees will be subtracted on cloudy and windy days.

White Zone Heat index of 65-80 degrees. In this range, the participants are in very little danger from heat and no special measure will be taken by the CPPRD.

Yellow Zone Heat index of 81-98 degrees. In this range, coaches will be encouraged to take extra steps to protect their players by making sure they keep them hydrated and by encouraging frequent substitution during games and practices.

Orange Zone Heat index of 99-105 degrees. In this range, the CPPRD will implement the following at games: all measures taken in the Yellow Zone; catchers will be allowed to catch only two innings in succession. If it is a practice day, coaches are instructed to keep players well hydrated and to take frequent breaks.

- Pee Wee Camp, T-ball, and coach pitch pre k thru 2nd grade – games will be reduced by 15 minutes. If it is a practice day, coaches are instructed to reduce the time of practice, take frequent breaks and keep players well hydrated.
- Softball grades 3-6 – games will be reduced by 30 minutes. If it is a practice day, coaches are instructed to reduce the time of practice, take frequent breaks and keep players well hydrated.
- Baseball grades 3-6 - games will be reduced by 30 minutes. If it is a practice day, coaches are instructed to reduce the time of practice, take frequent breaks and keep players well hydrated.

Red Zone Heat index ranging at and above 106 degrees. In this range, the CPPRD will cancel all games and practices until the heat index returns to below 106. Notifications will be given through emails and posted online.

Note – During the course of the day, the heat index will rise and fall depending upon the time of day, amount of wind, cloud cover, etc. The above program modifications could also change throughout the course of the day. Coaches and parents will be informed of the appropriate zone of play by email and online at 3:00pm day of. If you do not receive an email or see it posted online please consider practices and games scheduled as normal. These heat guidelines will be in effect for all CPRPD sponsored or sanctioned activities and events. The above are merely guidelines. It is the responsibility of parents to make the ultimate decision as to the participation of their child in CPRPD events when heat may be a factor, taking into consideration the age and physical condition of their child. Parents also have the ultimate responsibility to inform their child about the dangers of heat and need for protection, including application of sunscreen and proper hydration.

Lightning – If lightning is visible, all fields must be cleared immediately. Play will be halted for a minimum of 30 minutes. If no lightning is spotted during the 30 minutes, play will resume. If lightning is seen during the 30 minute period, the clock starts over. No play will resume until a minimum of 30 minutes passes with no lightning.