



Weather Cancellation Guidelines

For Internal Use Only

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Warrensburg Parks & Recreation Weather and Cancellation Guidelines

Warrensburg Parks & Recreation has implemented the following guidelines to deal with weather at all WPR games and practices. It is designed to provide participants with a standard for safe play in situations of extreme weather and unpredicted events. Safety First: Predicated on safety and maintenance concerns, these guidelines are a product of the efforts of program staff, maintenance personnel and volunteers as well as other departments policies.

Heat Guidelines

The two values that the WPR will take into account when modifying or cancelling games/practices are air temperature and relative humidity. The combination of these two elements reflects the heat index. We will rely on the heat index reading that is updated hourly by the National Weather Service.

WPR has defined five 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 stated 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 participant is in very little danger from heat and no special measures will be taken by the WPR.

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, WPR will implement the following at games: all measures taken in the Yellow Zone and water coolers will be available at each complex for players/parents/fans. Officials will call additional breaks at any time to ensure players stay hydrated. If it is a practice day, coaches are instructed to keep players well hydrated and to take frequent breaks.

Red Zone

Heat index of **106-115** degrees. In this range, WPR will implement the following for games: all measures taken in the yellow and orange zones and scheduled water/rest breaks will be provided each standard period through games. Officials will call additional breaks at any time to ensure players stay hydrated.

If it is a practice day, coaches are instructed to reduce the time of practice to 45 minutes, take frequent breaks and keep players well hydrated.

Black Zone

Heat index **above 115**. In this range, WPR will cancel all games and practices until the index returns to 115 or below.

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, especially on the week end. For example, a 1 pm game on Saturday could be played under the Orange Zone guidelines and a 4 pm game could be played under Red Zone guidelines. Coaches and parents will be notified of the appropriate zone of play by the Site Supervisor and/or the cancellation number – 660-747-5100

Cold Weather Guidelines

All outside games and practices will be cancelled if the temperature or wind chill index is recorded or forecasted to be below 32* F.

Play will be postponed if frost is present on playing surface.

Blizzard or other snow fall conditions

The following guidelines are designed to cancel activities that would significantly limit staff or participants ability to travel to the activity site, activities/special functions.

1. When the Weather Bureau has issued travel warnings.
2. When visibility for road travel is severely limited.
3. If the Warrensburg School District cancels school for the day because of inclement weather, then all scheduled recreation programs within the school facilities will not be held. Programs within the WPR facilities will be determined 2 hours before scheduled event.

Note- During the course of the day, if the weather improves. The program modifications could also change throughout the course of the day, especially on the week end. Coaches and parents can call the cancellation number – 660-747-5100 for updates.

Thunderstorm & Lightning Guidelines

At the sight or sound of lightning/thunder, staff will stop play and clear the fields for twenty (20) minutes. This procedure will also apply to the outdoor aquatic center. An air horn/announcement will be sounded to notify players to clear the field. If in the event, another strike occurs within the twenty minutes, an additional twenty minutes will be added to the time. For example: If lightning is sighted at 7:10 pm, play will be stopped until 7:30 pm. If another strike occurs at 7:16 pm, the time would be reset to 7:36 pm. The Park and Recreation staff takes lightning very serious and the safety of our participants is very important.

Tornado Guidelines

If a watch or warning is issued for Johnson County before games begin and extends past or near the normal quitting time of the program, all games and activities will be cancelled. If a watch or warning is issued after the activity or game has started, games and activities will be cancelled and participants are to take immediate safety precautions.

**The above are merely guidelines and it is the responsibility of parents and players to make the ultimate decision as to the participation of WPR events when heat, cold and lightning may be a factor, taking into consideration the age and physical condition of the player. Parents also have the ultimate responsibility to inform their child about the dangers of heat and need for protection, including sunscreen and proper hydration.

##The cancellation guidelines are based on forecast and alerts from the National Weather Service. <http://www.weather.gov/>

Warrensburg Parks and Recreation Wet Field Policy

Wet Conditions Guidelines

Following is Warrensburg Parks and Recreation's policy regarding the use of fields during wet conditions. This policy applies to all sports and activities, including WPR teams and outside teams renting the fields. This includes all fields at West Park, Lions Lake, Cave Hollow, Buford and West Park Soccer Complex.

Everyone shall abide by the **Wet Field Policy to protect the safety of participants** and preserve the life and condition of the fields. A field is considered too wet if you can see standing water, when walking causes water to surface, or have mud on the bottom of your shoes after walking on the field. Play is allowed during a light mist if the ground is hard and relatively dry. If, however, it has been raining and has caused the wet conditions, as described above exist, groups and individuals are not to play.

The following procedures are to be followed regarding the use of the fields when there has been rain, over-watering, or the fields are not playable:

Users' Responsibility

The Warrensburg Parks and Recreation maintenance and/or recreation staff has the authority to close fields indefinitely due to wet field conditions or deterioration.

If the fields are locked for any reason, teams, groups and individuals will not be allowed to practice. The Warrensburg Parks and Recreation maintenance and /or recreation staff has the final say on whether or not fields will be unlocked during the weekends.

Teams, groups and individuals are expected to make educated and responsible decisions regarding field conditions and playability, keeping in mind the current and future quality of the fields. In general, if you can see standing water, when walking causes water to surface, or have mud on the bottom of your shoes after walking on the field; the field is too wet to allow safe play. Scheduled activities on the field should be canceled to avoid damage to the field and potential injuries to the players.

Anyone failing to follow the guidelines of this policy risks subjecting their reservation to cancellation and loss of future field rentals. Fields may be checked for misuse during times when they are considered too wet and/or muddy by the Warrensburg Parks and Recreation Staff.

Athletic Cancellation Procedures

Warrensburg Parks and Recreation (WPR) reserves the right to cancel or curtail activities due to extreme weather conditions.

Refer to the WPR **Wet Field Policy** regarding the use of fields during wet conditions. This policy applies to all sports and activities, including WPR teams and outside teams renting the fields. This includes all fields at West Park, Lions Lake, Cave Hollow, Buford and West Park Soccer Complex.

- The Recreation Superintendent and/or Parks Operations Superintendent will authorize staff to check conditions of the field 2 hours prior to the start of the activity.
- Staff will check field conditions and document. (if necessary)
- The Recreation Supervisor directly in charge of that event will confer with the Superintendents. Cancellations decision will be made no later than 1 1/2 hours before the first scheduled event.
- The Recreation Supervisor will inform Front Desk Attendant on duty to update the cancellation hotline.
- Recreation Supervisor will send message to website coordinator to updated information on website.
- Recreation Supervisor will send an electronic message to all coaches.

(Adopted in 2016)