



UNITED SOCCER ATHLETES (USA) SOCCER CLUB

WEATHER-RELATED CANCELLATION GUIDELINES

Normal rain/snow does not impact soccer. In general, unless otherwise contacted, assume that practices and games will be played in the rain or snow.

In the case of more severe inclement weather (e.g., electrical storms, severe heat/cold, turbulent weather, etc.), to ensure the safety of our players, the following guidelines are to be used for cancellation.

Home Games: Refer to Section J of the GVSA Rules found on the GVSA website (<http://www.gvsoccer.org/>) for complete and specific details. In general, games are not canceled ahead of time for weather related issues. The GVSA requires that **when lightning is observed OR thunder is heard by the referee during or prior to any game, the game must be suspended until the danger has passed or the game must be terminated** if the dangerous weather persists. A general guideline for 'persists' is the time equivalent to a quarter of a game. For inclement weather before or at game time, the decision to abandon the game will be made only by the referee at the field, at game time. If the referee deems the conditions unsafe they can cancel the game. This is not usual - they may postpone the game so be careful not to leave and accidentally forfeit the game if the referee is simply postponing the start time.

Away games: In keeping with the Home Game guidance, in general a Club cannot cancel a game due to weather - the decision is made by the referee at game time. However, fields may be closed due to field conditions. If a field is closed then all games are canceled for the period during which the field is closed. If USA is made aware of field closures, we will do the best we can to notify the impacted USA teams. To ensure away game status, it is advised that individual teams contact the host team if there are questions.

Practices: In general, practices are not cancelled for weather-related reasons - assume that it is on unless you are notified. However, **coaches must keep the safety of the players in mind at all times**. Coaches must follow the GVSA rules as the minimum guideline. Specifically, **if lightning (or thunder) is observed, the practice is to be postponed or canceled and safe shelter is to be found immediately**. Do not delay in seeking safe harbor when danger is identified. The area must be clear of thunder or lightning for 30 minutes before practice can resume. Coaches must also follow the practices of the local school systems (e.g., if school activities are canceled, USA Soccer activities are canceled). Once in a safe location, do not allow individuals or groups to leave the safe harbor other than to leave the location with a parent/guardian.

Beyond the guideline for cancellation for severe inclement weather, coaches should consider the following when canceling for bad conditions: the SAFETY of the players, general commonsense, condition of the fields (do not ruin fragile turf), overall weather (e.g., rain on a very cold day may equate to an unnecessarily miserable situation), the needs of the team and/or individuals (big game prep vs. regular game prep), etc.

Unless communicated by an administering organization (e.g., the Club, the organizations providing field spaces, etc.), cancellation is at the discretion of the team coach. Cancellations may not be universally communicated and as such, cancellations must be communicated by the team management (e.g., coach, manager, etc.). If there are Club-wide cancellations (e.g., due to field closures) messages will be posted to the site and/or distributed by email.