



Weather Safety Policy

These are the **Policies of the DLL Board** as it relates to rainouts, rain delays and suspensions of play.

- The Official Playing Rules of Little League are to be followed except as modified and supplemented by this document. The Rules in this document are paraphrased.
- Rescheduling of games, for any reason, must be approved by the Commissioner of Baseball/Softball.
- **ANY DLL Board Member or Umpire** may suspend play and/or clear any/all of the fields at any time.
- **Umpire means any Umpire on any field of play or a Supervising Umpire.**
- A Delay called by **ANY DLL Board Member or Umpire** shall affect **all** fields in the immediate area (eg: A Delay called at MC18 shall immediately affect MC17, MC19 and MC16; similarly for Creekside 9 and 10)
- Any Delay described in this document **does not extend game time**. If any Delay causes the game to extend beyond the time limit, then the game shall be called (see Resuming Activities below).
- Washout – this is a game cancellation due to weather or other circumstance that is determined at least 2 hours before the start of a game, which should allow DLL to reach all personnel involved in preparing the fields for use that day.
- Pre- Game Rain-out – this is a game cancellation due to weather or other circumstance that is determined 1.5 to 2 hours before the start of the game(s) that day.
- Rain-out – this is a game cancellation due to weather or other circumstance that is determined between 1.5 hours before the start of the game and prior to the conclusion of the game.

When play has been halted due to storms, lightning or the Dexter Area Emergency Sirens, **everyone, including players, umpires, spectators and coaches shall leave the fields and take shelter**. A hard-topped metal vehicle with the windows closed also provides good protection. Avoid contact with metal in the vehicle and try to keep away from windows.

Before the Game

Rule 3.10: Coaches shall determine the fitness of the playing field prior to the start of the game. If they cannot agree, the Umpires or DLL Board Members shall make the determination.

Stopping Activities

DARKNESS: Umpires will use their judgment to call a game due to darkness. They may accept input from Board Members and Coaches in making this decision. A decision to stop a game on 1 field shall affect all nearby fields.

STORM DELAY: DLL Safety policy is that **any storms sighted** that could cause danger to the players, coaches, umpires and spectators shall **delay the game for 20 minutes from each new sighting**. The sighting of thunder or distant storms does not necessarily mean that play needs to be halted.

LIGHTNING DELAY: DLL Safety policy is that **any sighting of lightning shall delay the game for 20 minutes from each new sighting**. A “sighting of lightning” shall mean lightning seen by anyone including umpires, coaches, players, spectators, etc.

Information - In general, a significant lightning threat extends outward from the base of a thunderstorm cloud about 6 to 10 miles. Therefore, people should be in a safe place when a thunderstorm is 6 to 10 miles away. Here are some criteria that could be used to stop activities:

- **If you see lightning.** The ability to see lightning varies depending on the time of day, weather conditions, and obstructions such as trees, mountains, etc. In clear air, and especially at night, lightning can be seen from storms more than 10 miles away provided that obstructions don't limit the view of the thunderstorm.
- **If you hear thunder.** Thunder can usually be heard for a distance of about 10 miles provided that there is no background noise. Traffic, wind, and precipitation may limit the ability to hear thunder to less than 10 miles. If you hear thunder, though, it's a safe bet that the storm is within ten miles and that **officials should be prepared to halt play if conditions worsen.**
- **Any sounding of the Dexter Area Emergency Sirens** shall halt play immediately until an "All Clear" siren is sounded.

Rule 3:11: Once a game has been started, the Umpires will determine when playing conditions are unsuitable and when or if play can resume. Umpires may not call the game until at least 30 minutes have passed since play was halted, except for darkness or playing time limits.

DLL POLICY: Time limits carry over from any suspended game but shall not include any weather delays. See "local Rules" for agreed upon game playing time limits.

First Inning:

Rule 4.10(d) (implied) and Rule VII Note 2 (implied): A game that has not completed 1 full inning shall not count at all and **shall be replayed entirely**. No records shall be counted including pitch counts.

Inning is 2 through 3½:

Rule 4.10(d): A game "called" before it is a regulation game but after one inning has been played **shall resume exactly where it left off**. All records count including pitch counts. See Rule VII Notes 2 and 3 about how much a pitcher can pitch.

Inning is bottom of the 4th and home team is winning:

Rule 4.10(c)(2) and (3): A game "called" is a regulation game when b) the home team is ahead at the start or during the bottom of the 4th inning. **Game is over and home team wins.**

Exactly 4 complete Innings have been played and the game is not a tie:

Rule 4.10(c)(1): A game "called" is a regulation game when either a) 4 complete innings have been played with one team ahead. **Game is over.**

Inning is 5th or later and the score at the end of the last completed inning was NOT a tie:

Rule 4.11(c): After 4 innings have been played, an incomplete game "called" with home team leading in the incomplete inning: **Game is over and home team wins.**

Rule 4.11(d): a game "called" in an incomplete inning IS OVER at that moment, EXCEPT that after the 4th inning, the game reverts to the last completed inning IF 1) the home team was winning at the end of the last completed inning AND 2) the visiting team ties or takes the lead in the incomplete inning and the home team does not bat, tie or retake the lead. Game is over as of the last completed inning.

Inning is 5th or more the score at the end of the last completed inning WAS a tie:

Rule 4.12: After 4 or more innings have been played, an incomplete game "called" with the game tied as of the last completed inning: Play resumes exactly where it left off.

Rule VI Notes 2 and 3: In any resumed game, pitchers may resume pitching if the rest requirements are met.

BB Rule VI(k): No pitcher may pitch in 2 games on the same day. Implied: including continuation games.

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact one of the following:

Safety Director, Bryce McAllister at safety@dexterlittleleague.com or Melissa Boobyer at president@dexterlittleleague.com

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