



# Hendersonville Soccer Club

## Weather Policy

### 1. Introduction

This document details HSC policy in the event inclement weather threatens the HSC Complex during a game day or evening. This Policy cannot, and does not, protect any or every individual from property damage or injury. A safe and effective response to inclement weather is the responsibility of the individual, parent, and/or guardian. HSC does not assume any responsibility or liability for injury or property damage due to inclement weather.

### 2. Equipment

HSC has obtained access to a Kestrel handheld device to calculate temperature, dew point, relative humidity, and wind chill, for use in implementing the heat policy found in this document.

### 3. Weather Watcher

Radar will be monitored by a HSC official or designee trained to understand the Radar and data displayed.

### 4. NWS & Contact Information

In the event any HSC official has a question about the threat of a particular storm or the general threat for storms, he/she should dial the public number for the National Weather Service in Nashville: 615-754-8500. Game Day Protocols

HSC reserves the right to delay, suspend, or cancel play due to anticipated inclement weather conditions.

## 5. Game In-Progress Protocols

### a. Suspensions & Cancellations

Decisions about suspension or cancelation of play will be made by any member of the Board, or the Executive Committee's designee.

### b. Communication Methods/Dissemination

Suspension, resumption, cancellation, and related information will be announced over the public address loudspeaker and disseminated via the HSC website, and on the HSC Facebook page as quickly as practical. All information should also be disseminated via the Raine-Out App.

## 6. Lightning Protocols

### a. Detection Methods – Referees and Lightning Detection System

This policy does not remove decision-making authority from a referee to suspend play in the event lightning is seen or thunder is heard. Every referee is permitted, unilaterally and at his/her discretion, to suspend play. When play is suspended, referees shall direct players, coaches, and spectators to a fully enclosed structure or vehicle to wait for the league decision on whether the game will resume. Referees shall not make the final decision to cancel a game.

HSC will follow the lightning detection system installed at the parks. Once the siren goes off, the fields are closed. All people at the fields must seek shelter.

### b. Designated Lightning Shelters

In the event of lightning, all persons should be directed to fully enclosed indoor facilities and vehicles.

No place outside is safe if lightning is in the vicinity. Partially enclosed vending areas, the pavilion, and picnic shelters are not safe.

### c. Suspension & Resumption Protocols

1. Lightning detection activated via siren and flashing lights:

[Play is suspended due to lightning. Proceed to an indoor area or to your car and await further information.](#)

2. **Resumption of Play**

If suspended due to lightning, play resumes after the lightning detection system siren sounds 3 times.

HSC officials/referees have authority to extend the waiting period if deemed necessary.

**7. Severe Thunderstorm or Tornado Watch In Effect**

A watch indicates that conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop.

A warning means that severe weather has been detected and/or may be imminent. The NWS depicts the warned area in a polygon.

Storms do not always move in a predictable, linear fashion. Storms can also develop at or near the Complex and intensify before they are seen on radar.

1. Severe Thunderstorm Watch or Tornado Watch Issued for the HSC Complex

Field Status will be posted on the via Rain-Out App

2. Severe Thunderstorm Warning or Tornado Warning Issued for the HSC Complex

Field Status will be posted on the via Rain-Out App

**8. Heat Policy**

**a. Game Days**

HSC hereby abandons the heat index metric to determine whether the heat and humidity is too high to play. HSC shall use the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) as a measuring tool, and will purchase or otherwise acquire use of a Kestrel 5400 Heat Stress Tracker to measure actual conditions on the field during Game Days. Play may be suspended to allow for breaks on game days. The following is adapted from U.S. Soccer Heat Guidelines<sup>2</sup>:

**1. WBGT 82.0° - 87.1°**

U11-U12: Halftime break increased from 5 minutes to 10 minutes. U14+: Halftime break increased from 5 minutes to 12 minutes.

**2. WBGT 87.1° - 90.0°**

U7-U8: 2 minute breaks during each quarter increased to 4 minutes. U9-U10: 5 minute halftime increased to 10 minutes. U11-U12: Halftime break increased from 5 minutes to 10 minutes. U14+: Halftime break increased from 5 minutes to 12 minutes.

**3. WBGT 90.0° - 91.9°**

U5-U6: 2 minute breaks during each quarter increased to 4 minutes.  
U7-U8: 2 minute breaks during each quarter increased to 4 minutes.  
U9-U10: Midway through each half, the referee shall halt play and enforce a 4 minute break. Halftime remains 5 minutes.  
U11-U12: Midway through each half, the referee shall halt play and enforce a 4 minute break. Halftime increased from 5 minutes to 8 minutes.  
U14+: Midway through each half, the referee shall halt play and enforce a 4 minute break. Halftime increased from 5 minutes to 8 minutes.

**4. WBGT 92.0° or Higher – no games shall be played.**

When any of the above is in effect, HSC officials shall communicate to the coaches (U5-U6) and center referees what actions to take. The HSC official(s) may use the public address system and/or @HSCInfo, the HSC Facebook page, the HSC website<sup>3</sup>, and Rained-Out as deemed most effective.

Coaches shall comply with this policy or face discipline, including, but not limited to, suspension. Break time requires rest and hydration, and should occur inside any shaded area where possible. No practice or other similar physical activity shall occur during break times.

**b. Practices**

Coaches shall be cognizant of the dangers of heat-related illness and require all players to take frequent water, rest, and shade breaks.

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<sup>2</sup>[http://www.illinoisyouthsoccer.org/docs/CoachesHome/CoachingArticles/Heat%20Guidelines\\_pdf%20poster.pdf](http://www.illinoisyouthsoccer.org/docs/CoachesHome/CoachingArticles/Heat%20Guidelines_pdf%20poster.pdf)

## Cold Weather Guidelines

(Games and Practices)

Temperature means either ambient (still air) or wind chill index. During the course of the day, the cold weather index will rise/fall depending upon the time of day, amount of wind, cloud cover, etc. Decisions on game/practices will be made at least 60 minutes prior.

Cold Index	Recommended Guidelines
51°	No Change
50° and lower	Allowable Additional Clothing: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Layered beneath uniform (for example)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>long sleeves (hoods must be tucked in)</i></li> <li>- <i>long pants</i></li> <li>- <i>additional socks</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Gloves, Stocking caps without straps</li> </ol> Clothing NOT Allowed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Scarves               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Isadora Duncan Syndrome</i></li> </ul> </li> </ol>
40° and lower	Shorten Games – Practice at Discretion of Coach <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. U5, U6, U7, U8 – Shorten Game by 2 min/quarter</li> <li>2. U10, U12, U15, U19 – Shorten Game by 5 min/half</li> </ol>
32° and lower	Suspend Games and Practices

### COLD WEATHER TIPS

1. No one should sit or lie directly on ground. The heat is lost faster to ground than to air. Blankets and chairs are recommended.
2. Keep an eye on the goalie – usually the player who gets coldest first, as not running or moving like a field player.
3. Referees and coaches should discuss weather and fields pre-game.
4. Safety and health of the players come first.

The above are guidelines and it is the responsibility of parents to make the ultimate decision as to the participation of their child. When cold weather may be a factor, please take into consideration the age and physical condition of your child. Parents also have the ultimate responsibility to inform their child about the dangers of cold and need for protection (layered clothing, moisture wicking clothing, etc). Clothing needs to be underneath the uniform.