

RUTHERFORD RECREATION DEPARTMENT SEVERE WEATHER POLICY AND PROCEDURES

The purpose is to establish guidelines and procedures for how to handle extreme cold and heat/humid conditions in order to protect participants, spectators and staff.

STATEMENT: In the interest of the welfare and safety of residents and park visitors, the Recreation Department retains the right to cancel or curtail activities due to extreme weather conditions.

Please observe the following procedures in case of inclement weather on a practice or game day:

A decision regarding the cancellation of games or practices will never be made prior to 2:00PM on weekdays and 8:00AM on Saturdays and Sundays, even if weather conditions are terrible or forecasted to become terrible.

INDOOR FACILITY CLOSURES AND CANCELLATIONS

WINTER

- If the Snow Emergency Plan is in effect, all programs in schools are cancelled.
- If the Snow Emergency Plan goes into effect during a scheduled event, all events will be cancelled.
- During the school year, if schools have been closed, all programs in schools are cancelled.
- If schools are dismissed early, all evening programs are cancelled.
- A cancellation notice will be placed on the Department's Hotline and website by 8:00AM on Saturdays and Sundays or as soon as possible.

SUMMER

- During the summer months, a cancellation notice will be placed on the Department's website and Hotline as soon as possible upon closure notification.

OUTDOOR FACILITY CLOSURES AND CANCELLATIONS

FALL / WINTER / SPRING / SUMMER

- Following severe weather or heavy rains, the Department may close or restrict the use of outdoor facilities. Games may be cancelled because of excessive rain and wet fields.
- Games will not be cancelled because of heat, but games may be shortened and water breaks will be given.
- Cold weather game decision will be evaluated depending upon the duration of cold air and wind chill.
- During the school year, a cancellation notice will be placed on the Department's Hotline and Website by 2:00PM.
- On weekends a cancellation notice will be made by 8:00AM for field usage until noon. An updated notice may be made for the remainder of the day and should be posted by 10:30AM.
- As a safety precaution, all activities must cease upon the first sound of thunder or sign of lightning.
- Activities may be resumed only after a 30-minute delay beyond the last sign of lightning or sound of thunder.
- For updated Youth Sports Game information, please use the Department's Hotline (201 460-3000 EXT. 3177)

NO WEATHER SAFETY GUIDELINE CAN GUARANTEE ABSOLUTE SAFETY. It is the responsibility of every person to be aware of weather conditions and take appropriate action to be safe. Use common sense and good judgement. Plan ahead and make safety your number one priority.

PARENTS AND GUARDIANS ARE ENCOURAGED TO USE THEIR OWN DISCRETION WHETHER TO ALLOW THEIR CHILD TO PARTICIPATE UNDER QUESTIONABLE WEATHER-RELATED CONDITIONS.

WHEN IN DOUBT, SIT IT OUT.

SEVERE WEATHER PROCEDURES

Park Rangers will relay the severe weather information and proper procedure to follow to the coaches, players, umpires and spectators.

Severe Thunderstorm Watch

1. Begin or continue play while watching for severe weather.
2. If weather becomes severe or if a warning is issued, stop play and seek shelter immediately.
3. Resume play only after severe weather has left the area, after any warnings issued have been cancelled and if field conditions permit.

Severe Thunderstorm Warning

1. Do not begin or continue play.
2. Seek shelter immediately.
3. Resume play only after severe weather has left the area and if field conditions permit.

Tornado Watch or Warning

1. Do not begin or continue play.
2. Seek shelter immediately.
3. If a watch or warning is issued before play begins and extends past or near the normal quitting time, cancel all games.
4. If a watch or warning is issued during a game, seek shelter immediately and cancel all games.

Lightning

1. Use the 30-30 Rule: where visibility is good and there is nothing obstructing your view of the thunderstorm.
2. When you see lightning, count the seconds until you hear thunder. If that time is 30 seconds or less, the thunderstorm is within 6 miles and is dangerous.
3. Do not begin or continue play.
4. **SEEK SHELTER IMMEDIATELY.** The threat of lightning continues for much longer than most people realize.
5. Wait at least 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder before leaving shelter and resuming play. Don't be fooled by sunshine or blue sky!
6. If it is cloudy or objects such as buildings or mountains are obscuring your vision, get inside immediately. It is always safer to take precautions than to wait.

EXTREME HEAT AND HUMID WEATHER PROCEDURES

All programs, special events, athletic games, practices, etc., can be cancelled, facilities can be closed or work can be accommodated under the following conditions:

- When heat and humidity are such that participants in vigorous activities for prolonged periods could become over heated and continued activity becomes dangerous. Coaches and parents need to monitor athletes at all times.
- When the heat index possess a possible threat to the safety of participants and spectators.
 1. It is recommended that athletes drink 4 to 8 ounces of water 15 minutes prior to participating.
 2. When the temperature is 80-95 degrees with high humidity, participants need to have water breaks after 30 minutes of practice / play. Ice-down towels for cooling.
 3. When the temperature is 95-100 with high humidity, participants need to have water breaks every 15 minutes with rest breaks, preferably in shaded areas if possible. Ice-down towels for cooling.
 4. When the temperature is 100+ degrees, water breaks should be every 5 to 10 minutes. Ice-down towels for cooling.
 5. Stop all outside activity in practice and / or play and stop all inside activity if air conditioning is unavailable when temperatures rise above 104 degrees.
 6. Participants should **never** be turned down for a water break. Any participant that does not "feel well" should be taken out immediately AND is to be given aid immediately.
- Games may be shortened but not cancelled due to excessive heat (coaches and officials will decide length of games).

EXTREME COLD WEATHER PROCEDURES

The following are procedures for extreme cold weather conditions.

All programs, special events, etc., can be canceled and facilities closed under the following conditions.

Cold Weather-Reported Forecast Temperature of **25 degrees below zero (without a wind) OR any combination of wind and temperature that is 25 degrees below zero or colder.**

This information can be obtained from the local weather channel.

- All outside activities for Parks and Recreation will be cancelled or postponed.
- Call the Hot Line for up to date information **(201-460-3000 EXT. 3177) and check the website.**

Icy or sleet weather conditions where activities / functions will be cancelled or postponed.

- When the Weather Bureau has issued travel warnings.
- When visibility for road travel is severely limited.
- Log onto RutherfordRecreation.com for updated information.

Blizzard or other snow fall conditions that would significantly limit staff or participants ability to travel to the activity site, activities / special functions will be cancelled or postponed.

- When the Weather Bureau has issued travel warnings.
- When visibility for road travel is severely limited.
- Log onto RutherfordRecreation.com for updated information.

Notification to participants and the public.

- Post message on Hotline 201 460-3000 EXT. 3177
- Tweeter RutherfordRec