

**Town of LaSalle  
Inclement Weather Policy**

**SUBJECT:** Weather Policy

**PURPOSE:** To establish guidelines and procedures to handle extreme cold and heat conditions in order to protect participants, spectators and staff.

**SCOPE:** The Division of Parks and Recreation retains the right to cancel or curtail activities due unsafe weather conditions.

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**WHO TO CALL:** Most game schedules will include a weather information number. If one is not available please call the Recreation Department (970.284.0900) for updated cancellation information. Due to the rapidly changing nature of Colorado's weather many game cancellation decisions can not be made until game time. For information regarding practice cancellations please call your assigned team parent or coach.

**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.

Procedures under Section A apply to all weather conditions.

**SECTION A**

**Cold Weather-Reported Forecast Temperature of 32 degrees (without wind) OR any combination of wind and temperature that is 32 degrees or colder.**

This information can be obtained from the local weather channel.

All outside activities for Parks and Recreation will be canceled or postponed.

**SECTION B**

**Icy weather conditions where activities/functions will be canceled or postponed.**

1. When the Weather Bureau has issued travel warnings.
2. When visibility for road travel is severely limited.

**SECTION C**

**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 canceled or postponed.**

1. When the Weather Bureau has issued travel warnings.
2. When visibility for road travel is severely limited.

### **HOT WEATHER CONDITIONS PROCEDURES:**

The following are procedures for extreme (heat) weather conditions.

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

The Recreation Department may require that activities be curtailed or canceled when the heat is such that participation in vigorous activity for prolonged periods could be dangerous.

The Heat Index is an important consideration when assessing risk in hot and humid conditions. It is the temperature the body feels and is a measure of how humidity acts in conjunction with high temperatures to reduce the bodies ability to cool itself. In computing the Heat Index, the chart assumes the person is in the shade, at sea level and with a wind speed of 6mph. Exposure to direct sunlight can increase the Heat Index from 5-15 degrees .When weather conditions present a threat to the safety of participants and spectators events may be canceled / postponed.

### **Lightning Policy:**

**“If you can see it (*lightning*), flee it (*take shelter*). If you can hear it (*thunder*), clear it (*suspend activities*)”**

When you first see lightning or hear thunder, suspend activities and go to shelter. A vehicle or a substantial building is a safe place. Wait 30 minutes after the last observed lightning or thunder before resuming activities. If play needs to be cancelled the Team Parent and or Coach should contact all participants parents to inform them of the cancellation and have them picked up immediately.

### **Field Playability Policy:**

#### **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.

#### **Football / Soccer Fields**

Under all circumstances the safety of the participants is paramount. Strong consideration must also be given to the potential damage to the turf and the length of time required for the field to recover.

When determining field playability, the following guidelines should be followed:

- Large areas of standing water on any part of the playing field is just cause for cancellation.
- Any attempt to remove standing water from small areas should be done by bailing or by a pump.
- During the course of inspection, any visible water or sound (squish) while walking is an indication that the field is unfit for play or practice. Footprints and the collection of water around them is an indication that the field should be closed.

### **Ball Diamonds**

While ball diamonds present a unique challenge, the approach to determining playability is similar to Football and Soccer Fields. Conditions that may cause cancellation or postponement of play.

1. Standing water on the field of play.
2. Soil Saturation:
  - a. Walking on turf/infield causes water to surface
  - b. Walking on turf/infield on heels causes indentions
  - c. Steady downpour of rain during/on game or practice day, which could cause damage to turf/infield or injury to participants