



RSU5CP - Inclement Weather Policy

RSU5 Community Programs (RSU5CP) considers the safety and wellbeing of participants in our programming to be the highest priority. As such we reserve the right to cancel an activity for anything we believe to be unsafe, and we will err on the side of caution when making our decisions. In the event that no RSU5CP staff member is on site, a designated program supervisor will be responsible for the safety of participants (this will likely be the Head Coach of our team/s at the event). Referees, umpires, or other game officials also have a responsibility to the safety of participants. Coaches, program supervisors, and these game officials should collaborate on weather-related decisions. All referees, coaches, players, and spectators are expected to abide by these decisions.

- When a sporting contest has been scheduled and dangerous playing conditions exist or severe weather is anticipated, the following should be considered:
 - Prior to beginning an athletic contest, the program supervisor will be responsible for informing contest officials, visiting town/school/team designees, and the parents/participants of suspension and/or postponement procedures, including designated shelter areas and any potential alterations to the playing rule book.

Furthermore, the following guidelines will be followed by our program supervisors:

- When will outdoor programming be canceled, delayed or postponed?
 - Any time the [Heat Index](#) reaches levels indicating “extreme caution.” A general rule is to stop play when the temperature drops below 40°F, or exceeds 90°F. This includes “real feel” temperatures, and wind chill (for example if the temperature says 42°F, but the wind chill makes the real feel temperature 37°F, the event will be stopped).
 - Any time the [Wind Threat Level](#) reaches moderate or above. This is defined as consistent winds of 26-39+ mph, or gusts of 35+ mph.
 - In the event of heavy precipitation, including but not limited to: rain, sleet, hail, or snow. Heavy precipitation is defined as “greater than 0.30” per hour” and can be predicted using this [Hazards Outlook Map](#).
 - In the presence of lightning within a ten mile radius. We suggest using the [WeatherBug App](#) to track this.
 - When thunder is heard or lightning is spotted.
 - If the skies look threatening, or if any other life threatening conditions occur.



RSU5CP - Inclement Weather Policy (Continued)

- If an event is stopped for any of the reasons listed above, everyone must take shelter indoors (or in cars), and play will not resume until:
 - The designated program supervisor determines that it is safe to resume.
 - In the event of thunder or lightning, play shall not resume until 30 minutes after the most recent event of lightning or thunder.
 - In the event of heavy precipitation, extreme temperatures, or threatening wind speeds, play shall not resume unless conditions return to the designated “normal” threshold and remain so for fifteen minutes. In addition, play may be further halted if the field conditions have significantly worsened, or if playing on the fields will cause damage or risk the potential for future events on the surface.
- Other considerations for returning to play after a delay:
 - If the delay is 45 minutes or more, the event should be canceled, or rescheduled for a later date.
 - Athletes must be guaranteed a 10-minute warm-up period in the event that play will resume.
 - If time constraints do not allow for the completion of the event after the addition of the 10-minute warm up, the event should be postponed or canceled (unless all coaches, referees and administrators agree to shorten the event given the circumstances).

These guidelines were created using information and resources provided by the Maine Principals Association, the National Weather Service, and the prior experience of our staff and coaches.

Additional resources relating to this policy can be found at this link:

[NSSL Learning Resource](#)

If you have any questions or concerns about this policy, please contact us at:

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