



Waterloo Minor Soccer Club

## EXTREME WEATHER POLICY

The safety of players, coaches, management and spectators is the primary concern in any weather event that occurs during all club activities<sup>1</sup>. By understanding and following the below information, the safety of everyone shall be greatly increased. Ultimately, the referee (for games) or coach (for training sessions) has the final say over delaying or suspending a club activity due to weather. Waiting to stop play or not waiting to start play may result in a serious injury or loss of life. Referees/coaches are expected to act responsibly when dealing with such events during matches/training sessions they are controlling.

This policy provides direction to govern when and how match competitions and training sessions will proceed under specific weather conditions. It has been developed keeping in mind **Environment Canada's** definition and recommendations for Extreme Heat and Extreme Cold, as well as **Canada Soccer's Lightning Safety / Severe Weather Policy**.

### EXTREME HEAT

Where the air temperatures (including the Humidex) reach the following thresholds one hour prior to club activities the Club is advised to use the following guidelines:

- Temperature of **32°C or lower**. All club activity (training sessions and matches) may proceed as normal.
- Temperature of **between 32°C and 38°C**. All club activity may proceed with additional water breaks. For matches, it is up to the discretion of the referee and/or coaches to provide more than one 2 minutes water break per half. Shall a team not be able to field the minimum number of players for the match it is recommended that both the referee(s) and coaches agree to shorten the game by at least 10%.
- Temperature of **38°C or higher**. The Club may cancel all outdoor club activity based on recommendations from the City of Waterloo.

In addition to the air temperature, the Club may cancel club activities one-hour prior should the Air Quality Index be Poor in the Region of Waterloo (as determined by Environment Canada).

Refer to **Avoiding and Preventing Heat Related Injuries When Playing Soccer** for more information.

### EXTREME COLD

- Temperature of **2°C or higher**. All club activity may proceed as normal.
- Temperature of **below 2°C**. All outdoor club activity may be cancelled.

### LIGHTNING

- In the event of thunder and/or lightning, WMSC adheres to the **Canada Soccer Lightning Safety / Severe Weather Policy**. The decision to suspend a game will be made by senior referees (for matches) and head coaches (for training) and they are advised to take a "better safe than sorry" approach during electrical storms. All parties are advised to take shelter in a safe location right away and club activities must not resume until 30 minutes after the last thunder or lightning.

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<sup>1</sup> "Club activities" refers to all training sessions, games, camps, et cetera conducted and organized by WMSC. For competitive league games the respective league's rules and regulations are followed.



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### PRECIPITATION

- Snowfall and rainfall (without an electrical storm) do not warrant the cancellation of club activities unless the respective facilities have been closed by the City of Waterloo.
- The Club reserves the right to cancel training session at their discretion due to weather.

### CANCELLATIONS, RESCHEDULING, AND RESULTS:

All competitive matches (excluding indoor and outdoor house leagues) follow the respective league's rules regarding cancellations, rescheduling, and results. Training sessions suspended or cancelled due to inclement weather will not be rescheduled.

#### For all house league matches:

Games cancelled before reaching the halfway mark will not be rescheduled, no result will be recorded, and the games will be excluded from the standings. For games cancelled at or after the halfway mark, the official score shall be recorded as the score at the time of suspension.

In the case of inclement weather during a playoff tournament, games may be delayed or rescheduled to later in the tournament. However, if this is not possible due to tight scheduling and limited field availability, any game that is suspended before reaching the halfway mark will be recorded as a 1-0 win for the team with the higher ranking during the regular season. If a game has reached the halfway mark and has a tied score at the time of suspension, and if rescheduling is not possible, the teams may proceed directly to a penalty shootout to determine the winner, at the discretion of the Club. If the shootout cannot be conducted, the team with the higher regular season ranking will be considered the winner.

**Whenever possible, WMSC will inform players of cancellations and rescheduling due to bad weather 1 hour prior to the intended start time via email and/or social media posts. Players are expected to check social media platforms for any updates when bad weather is suspected.**

**All facilities are owned by the City of Waterloo. Hence, closure of facilities by the City will automatically lead to the suspension of all club activities at the closed facilities.**