

## **Enid Soccer Club Local Recreational Weather Policy**

January 18, 2023

Enid Soccer Club monitors weather conditions prior to, and during all home game times. For weather conditions occurring prior to game times, we will try and notify everyone as soon as a decision has been made to play, postpone and/or cancel games. For weather that causes field conditions to deteriorate or is forecast to create a weather related danger, the decision to postpone or cancel games will be made at or before 7 am on Saturdays and Sundays. Midweek games will be decided by 3 pm. Coaches have the responsibility to notify their players and parents.

All temperatures, wind chills, heat indexes and other objective weather data will be sources from the National Weather Channel website. This source will be used by club officials in making determinations following the policy below.

The Enid Soccer Club uses the following methods of notification:

- Home Page of the Enid Soccer Club website
- Enid Soccer Club Facebook Page
- Emails to coaches
- Texts to coaches
- Air Horn sounds (on game days at the soccer fields)

Each individual is ultimately responsible for his/her personal safety and has the right to take appropriate action when threatened by bad weather. Adults must take responsibility for the safety of children in their care during weather events.

The Enid Soccer Club has designated responsible person(s) to monitor the weather and field conditions to initiate the notification, evacuation, postponement and/or cancellation process when appropriate.

Adults and Parents must take responsibility for the safety of children in their care. The Enid Soccer Club recommends taking shelter in a safe place or location designed to protect from weather related dangers.

## **Take Shelter Signal**

The Enid Soccer Club requires immediate evacuation of all practice and game fields after bad weather threats are signaled or anticipated. In the event that lightning or other related danger is approaching the Enid Soccer Club on a game day, will sound the "Take Shelter" signal, indicated by the 1 (one) long blast of an Air Horn. This will be sounded when lightning is determined to be within 10 miles of the fields. On practice days please look for lightning. Parents and Coaches need to end practice when lightning is within 10 miles of the fields. Do not resume practice again until 30 minutes after the last strike with in 10 miles of the fields.

## **All Clear Signal**

The "All Clear" will be 2 (two) short blasts from an Air Horn and will indicate when thirty minutes has passed since the last observation of thunder.

## **Game Postponement**

The Enid Soccer Club may temporarily postpone practice and games for situations where the weather related danger is expected to be short lived.

## **Game Cancellation**

The Enid Soccer Club may be forced to cancel practices and/or games due to weather related dangers and/or field conditions. If games are cancelled, please monitor website and Facebook for updates.

### *Lightning and Thunder:*

At the first sound of thunder or the first sign of lightning, within 10 miles of the fields, all coaches, players, referees and spectators are to withdraw from the field and seek proper shelter (in a building or a vehicle). In the case of Travel games, Enid Soccer members should make our visitors aware of our policy and instruct them to seek proper shelter.

No place outside is safe near thunderstorms. The best shelter is a large, fully enclosed, substantially constructed building. A vehicle with a solid metal roof and metal sides is a reasonable second choice.

30 minute Rule-Wait at least 30 minutes after the last sound of thunder or last lightning flash within 10 miles of the fields. If another flash happens again in the 10 mile radius the 30 minute delay begins again.

Any new activities that follow shall have to repeat this same policy before starting.

Lightning research has confirmed that consecutive lightning strikes can occur as much as six miles apart. People often do not perceive lightning to be close if it is two miles or more away, but the risk of the next strike being at your location may actually be very high.

Many lightning casualties occur in the beginning as a thunderstorm approaches because people ignore these precursors. When thunderstorms are in the area but not overhead, the lightning threat can exist even if it is sunny at your location.

No Lightning/Thunder Safety Policy can give 100% Guaranteed Total Safety but these steps will help avoid casualties by taking evasive action.

## **Wind**

Sustained winds 30 to 39 mph and or gusts to 50 mph. Games could be suspended. Please monitor Facebook and Website for game changes/cancellations.

## Hot Weather

1. Games need to be adjusted as the heat index rises:
  - a. Mandatory water breaks
  - b. Go to quarters
  - c. Shorten the games

Club administrators and tournament officials are responsible for monitoring the heat index (by weather radio, online, or weather channel) and keeping the participating teams and game officials informed of the heat index. Coaches are encouraged to also monitor the conditions. The following are recommended when there is a possibility of dangerous high heat index:

Heat Index	Recommendations
Up to 80°	Normal Play
85°-89°	Mandatory two-minute water breaks per half with running time.
90°-99°	Mandatory two-minute water breaks per half with running time. Each half shortened by five minutes.
100°-104°	Mandatory two-minute water breaks per half with running time. Each half shortened by ten minutes.
105°+	Suspend Play

## Cold Weather

For late fall or early spring seasons, cold becomes a factor. Players should be allowed to dress in appropriate clothing. Field conditions will be affected by freezing rain, sleet and snow. The ground may become frozen and be unsafe for play. Temperature means either ambient (still air) OR wind chill index. We check weather guides for temperature and weather conditions.

Cold Index	Recommendations
46° and higher	No Change
45° and lower	<p>Allowable Additional Clothing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Layered beneath uniform (for example)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ long sleeves</li> <li>◦ long pants</li> <li>◦ additional socks</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Gloves or mittens</li> <li>• Stocking caps without straps</li> <li>• Sweat pants or shirts-In the case of extremely old weather, may be worn underneath the uniform.</li> <li>• Jackets or hoodies may be worn under the uniform so that referees can see the player's number in the event of a card being issued.</li> </ul> <p>Clothing NOT allowed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ear muffs (headbands OK)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Plastic or metal crossing top of head presents potential hazard</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Scarves               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Isadora Duncan Syndrome</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
40° and lower	Shorten games by 5 min/half
37° and lower	Suspend Games

Helpful ideas for safety:

- Players on sidelines should remain dressed (if in warm-ups) until they enter the game.
- Players coming off should towel off (if sweaty) and get dressed quickly.
- No one should sit or lie directly on ground. The heat is lost faster to the ground than to air. Blankets and chairs are recommended.
- Keep hydrated-avoid caffeine and carbonated drinks.
- Keep an eye on field conditions (wet, icy, etc.). Cold wet conditions can quickly change field from safe footing to slippery.
- Keep an eye on the goalie—usually the player who gets coldest first, as not running or moving like a field player.
- Referees and coaches should discuss weather and fields pre-game.
- Safety and health of the players come first.