

Boardman Soccer Association

Inclement Weather Policy

Soccer continues for precipitation, provided there is no threat from lightning. However, fields may become unplayable due to a combination of overuse and excessive rain. Waterlogged fields create frustrating and hazardous playing conditions, and the fields become extremely vulnerable to heavy damage, which affects future playability in both the short- and long-term.

The intent of this policy is threefold: To

1. Protect players from avoidable injuries.
2. Protect BSA fields from unnecessary damage.
3. Maximize playing time and game quality by minimizing the damages to fields.

1. **Lightning.** Lightning within 12 miles of the field poses a serious safety hazard to participant and spectators. If lightning is possible in the area, then all board members and volunteers must assume responsibility for lightning safety. The board members at the complex will be designated as Observers.

- a. **60-Second (12 mile) Rule.** Sound travels approximately one mile in five seconds; it will cover 12 miles in 60 seconds. Observers should determine the flash-to bang time by counting the interval between the flash of lightning and the arrival of the thunder. If the count is 60 seconds or less, which indicates that lightning is within 12 miles of the complex, then all matches will be suspended until safe conditions return.
- b. **30-Minute Rule.** Upon suspension of play for lightning, the Observers will continue to identify lightning strikes within 12 miles of the complex. Lightning is considered to have moved out of the area 30 minutes after the last flash-to-bang time of 60 seconds or less. Once the lightning has moved out of the area, play may resume at the discretion of the Observers.
- c. Distant lightning does not constitute a reason to suspend play.

2. **Suspension of Play Due to Excessive Rain.** The Director of Fields and Facilities and BSA president determine the playability of the fields for games and practices. In the absence of the Property Director and President, the responsibility falls to the following, in order:

- a. VP competitive and recreational
- b. board members

c. Director of Officiating

If, in the opinion of the above commissioners, some or all fields are not in playing condition due to rain, then the games scheduled for those fields must be (1) moved to playable fields (subject of availability); (2) postponed; or (3) cancelled according to the rules of competition in effect at the time the decision is made.

If the referee determines that a field has become unplayable due to weather conditions during the course of a match, the referee may suspend the match. Final determination of the outcome will be in accordance with applicable BSA bylaws and rules.

3. Playability Determination. The field is unplayable if any of the following conditions exist:

- a. Standing water
- b. Snow
- c. Mud resulting from rain or snow
- d. Excessively soft surface due to rain.

If any of the above conditions exist, the field is at risk for long-term damage. We must resist the desire to “play at all costs.” Everyone who uses the field will benefit from the decision not to play on a field that is vulnerable to damage.

Rescheduling of Games Postponed for Weather of Field Conditions.

1. Priority for rescheduling games: Tournament games; competitive league games; recreational league games; competitive teams’ scrimmages; recreational teams’ scrimmages.
2. VP of the affected teams will coordinate with team managers and referee assignor to reschedule games.