

## GPS IOWA AND GPS/ASC SEVERE WEATHER POLICY

Adopted:

GPS/ASC is committed to the safety of our players, members and guests. The following policies and procedures should apply in the event severe weather conditions. Adherence to this policy by employees, club leadership and team managers is **mandatory and without exception**. Following are condition specific criteria for cancellations and their communication to the membership:

### 1. Extreme Heat

#### a. HEAT INDEX GREATER THAN 95 AND LESS THAN 99

- i. Provide ample amounts of water. This means that water should always be available and athletes should be able to take in as much water as they desire.
- ii. Mandatory water breaks every 30 minutes for 10 minutes in duration
- iii. Ice-down towels for cooling
- iv. Watch/monitor athletes carefully for necessary action.
- v. Reduce time of outside activity. Consider postponing practice to later in the day.
- vi. Re-check temperature and humidity every 30 minutes to monitor for increased Heat Index.

#### b. HEAT INDEX GREATER THAN 100 LESS THAN 104

- i. Provide ample amounts of water. This means that water should always be available and athletes should be able to take in as much water as they desire.
- ii. Mandatory water breaks every 30 minutes for 10 minutes in duration
- iii. Ice-down towels for cooling
- iv. Watch/monitor athletes carefully for necessary action.
- v. Alter uniform by removing items if possible
- vi. Allow for changes to dry t-shirts and shorts.
- vii. Reduce time of outside activity as well as indoor activity if air conditioning is unavailable.
- viii. Postpone practice to later in day.
- ix. Re-check temperature and humidity every 30 minutes to monitor for increased Heat Index.

#### c. HEAT INDEX GREATER THAN 104

- i. Stop all outside activity in practice and/or play and stop all inside activity if air conditioning is unavailable.

### 2. Severe Weather

- a. In the event of a storm, play must be stopped and suspended until the danger has passed using the following minimum criteria. This is often called the 30/30 rule.

- i. A 30 second or less time interval between the sighting of a lightning flash to the hearing of the associated thunder, shall be reason to stop and suspend a game and
- ii. Play shall not be resumed prior to the 30 minutes after the last sighting of lightning or the last sound of thunder heard.
- iii. Members should return to their vehicles immediately upon suspension from lightening or thunder.
- iv. Play shall not occur while under a severe weather warning issued by the National Weather Service and communicated by local media

### 3. Wet Weather

- a. Soccer is played in the rain and wet weather. However, where there are poor field conditions from extended wet weather, the club may cancel activities on grass surfaces for the day(s) or week(s), depending upon the conditions of the fields. Field conditions must be safe and allow for an effective and productive training session. The Club may cancel practices to mitigate damage to our fields if the fields are extremely wet or waterlogged.
- b. The Program Director, President and/or an assigned board member will consider all relevant weather and safety factors and make this decision.

### 5. Extreme Cold

- a. For teams U12 and YOUNGER, the “feels like” temperature which accounts for Windchill and the heat index, shall not be lower than 30 degrees, and/or there can be no precipitation if the temperature is below 35 degrees.
- b. For teams U13 and OLDER the “feels like” temperature which accounts for wind shall not be lower than 24 degrees, and/or if there is precipitation the temperature must be 32 degrees.
- d. Practices may also be cancelled due to other weather-related factors that may influence transportation or the effectiveness and productivity of a training session.

### 6. Protecting Our Fields:

- a. We will not start any activity\* on our fields when it is raining hard.
- b. We will not start any activity\* when the fields are very wet (even after rain has stopped).

The Club will decide when the fields are not playable and will communicate this decision via the Club Website, Facebook page and through Team communications.

An activity is any event with physical exertion, e.g. game, practice, clinic, tournament, etc.

### 7. Game/Match/Tournament Cancellations

- a. Cancellations of games are much more involved than cancelling practices and is not solely at the discretion of GPS/ASC.

b. The decision to play or cancel a match is done in consultation with the Iowa Soccer Association, the match officials and the other team's coaching staff. Due to the length of the season, tournament play and Match Officials availability, rescheduling games is a very difficult process. Every attempt to play the scheduled game will be made.

#### 7. Communication of Cancellations

- a. Communication of field status and practice availability will be communicated by the Team Coaches and Team Managers
- b. While best efforts will be made to post field status on the website and the Facebook page, please do not rely on the website exclusively for up to the minute field status. Updates to the website are only available as the webmaster's availability permits.
- c. Every attempt will be made to communicate practice cancellations by 4:00 pm on a practice day.

#### 6. Miscellaneous

- a. If a parent is uncomfortable with the weather or field conditions, they may request that their child leave the field. The coach will honor the parent's request to remove the child, immediately and without penalty.
- b. The weather where you are may be different than what it is at the fields. If at any time there is a question about a cancellation, you must be present at the fields ready to begin activities.
- c. All cancellation of games must follow the appropriate rules for reschedule as defined by the Iowa Soccer Association and GPS/ASC.