

<b>PA West Soccer Association Policy Manual Policy # 200-11</b>	Revision:	Page: 1
Subject: Weather	Date Amended:	Date Accepted: June 1, 2015

## Weather Policy

PA West Soccer sets forth this policy to outline general safe practices when adverse weather arises. It is the responsibility of the event directors to follow this policy.

The weather forecast and conditions should be monitored in advance of an event to allow for proper planning for a variety of possible conditions. These conditions include but aren't limited to the following:

*Lightning/Thunder* – All fields/open spaces are to be cleared at the first sound of thunder or the first flash of lightning. Individuals should be directed to go an enclosed building until advised that it is safe to return to field/open spaces. Should an enclosed building not be available, the individuals should be directed to go to the vehicles. The fields/open spaces should remain clear until 30 minutes after the last rumble of thunder or flash of lightning. When at all possible, a lightning detector should be employed to provide as much as advance notice of possible strikes.

*High Winds* – Events should not be held in high winds to avoid exposure to flying debris and possible damage to property. In advance of a high wind episode, all portable equipment should be stored in a safe place. If safe storage is not available, an effort should be made to properly secure all equipment to avoid damage to the equipment and those who may be in the area.

*Heavy Rain* – While it is recognized that soccer may be played rain, care must be exercised to ensure the playing surface is safe prior to and throughout the contest. Discretion should also be exercised to avoid long term damage to the playing surface.

*Flooding* – When flash flooding is a possibility, care should be taken to monitor the weather channels to anticipate situations that could result in potential flooding, especially when the field is situation in a low lying area or near a stream, creek, river, or other water source.

*Tornado* – Weather forecasts should be monitored when conditions exist for possible tornado activity. Consideration should be given to cancelling the activity to allow individuals to remain indoors. If individuals are outside, all fields/open spaces are to be cleared as soon as a tornado watch is given for the area or an approaching tornado has been identified. Individuals should be instructed as the situation dictates whether to seek safety on site or return home.

*Snow* – During winter months, the weather forecast should be monitored and care used in determining if the activity should proceed as scheduled. Like rain, soccer may be played in the snow but accumulating snow could be a hazard to the players and result in damage to the playing surface.

*Low Temperatures* – Temperatures should be monitored, along with the wind chill, to allow the event/competition to occur without the unnecessarily exposing the participants to cold-related injury. Participants should also be monitored for heat-related illness as they may overdress to avoid the cold.

*High Temperatures* – Temperatures should be monitored, along with the heat index, to allow the event/competition to occur without the unnecessarily exposing the participants to heat-related injury.

This policy applies to all PA West Soccer run activities. Every responsible effort should be made to comply with this policy as the health, safe, and welfare of all participants and spectators is our primary objective.