



Bartlett Parks & Recreation Weather Policy and Procedures

POLICY SCOPE:

BPRD retains the right to cancel or curtail activities due extreme weather conditions or adverse field or facility conditions. All individuals participating in or observing athletic events are responsible for their own safety and should monitor any threatening conditions.

Ultimately, the decision to participate or not to participate is solely in the hands of each participant/parent and each must decide for themselves what is in the best interest for their family.

SECTION A - FIELD CONDITIONS:

During extremely wet or cold conditions, the City of Bartlett Parks and Recreation Dept. may close any and all fields to protect the grass or other surfaces from damage. Field closings will be posted on **Facebook at Bartlett Parks and Recreation Athletics** and on the inclement weather line at **901-385-5595**, by 3:00pm on weeknights and 2 hours prior to the first game time on weekends.

SECTION B- COLD WEATHER REPORTED TEMPERATURE PROCEDURE:

Thirty minutes prior to outdoor field activities, **temperatures falling below 32 degrees F.**, or the combination of wind and temperature (wind chill factor) is measured 32 degrees or colder, **will result in activities being canceled or postponed.** www.OSHA/NIOSH using the zip code 38135 for the Bartlett area.]

SECTION C - EXTREME HEAT AND HUMID WEATHER CONDITIONS PROCEDURE:

Thirty minutes prior to outdoor field activities, **heat index of above 104 will result in activities being canceled or postponed.** **NOTE:** The Heat Index is an important consideration when assessing risk in hot and humid conditions. It is the temperature the body feels and is a measure of how humidity acts in conjunction with high temperatures to reduce the body's ability to cool itself. www.OSHA/NIOSH using the zip code 38135 for the Bartlett area.]

SECTION D - - LIGHTNING PROCEDURES:

Lightning-detection devices are used to assist in making a decision to suspend play if a lightning strike is noted to be within 8 miles.

Thirty-minute rule. Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or lightning is witnessed prior to resuming play. Any subsequent thunder or lightning* after the beginning of the 30-minute count will result in cancellation.

If cloud to ground lightning is seen or thunder is heard by the game officials before a lightning detector displays an alert, the game shall be suspended and the 30 minute count shall begin.

While lightning on the horizon should warn of potential danger, lightning associated with thunder or thunder alone means that there is immediate danger to athletes, officials, and spectators. The adage of "If you can hear it, clear it." must be used to make decisions to postpone or cancel the activity. Lightning can strike 10 miles ahead of or behind the storm front and thunderhead clouds. If lightning is visible, activities must be canceled or postponed until all lightning which includes sound must be cancelled or postponed.

Umpire/Supervisor procedures

The Field Supervisor and Umpires should keep an eye on weather conditions.

Wind chills falling below 32 degrees or a heat index of above 104 will result in activities being canceled or postponed

Storm watches or warnings should be heeded. When the weather becomes dangerous, the field supervisor will announce that all play activities are suspended and all individuals, including players and spectators, should seek appropriate shelter.

ALL discussion should be held away from teams and spectators

1. Develop an evacuation plan, including identification of appropriate nearby safer areas and determine the amount of time needed to get everyone to a designated safer area.
2. When lightning-detection devices or mobile phone apps are available, this technology could be used to assist in making a decision to suspend play if a lightning strike is noted to be within **10 miles** of the event location.
3. No place is absolutely safe from lightning threat; however, some places are safer than others. Large, enclosed structures (substantially constructed buildings) tend to be safer than smaller structures or open structures. In general, a fully enclosed vehicle with the windows rolled up tends to be safer than being outside so long as contact with metal surfaces inside and outside the vehicle is avoided.
designated safer place is a substantial building with plumbing and wiring where people live or work, such as a school, gymnasium or library.
 - a. Thirty-minute rule. Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or lightning is witnessed* prior to resuming play. Any subsequent thunder or lightning* after the beginning of the initial 30-minute count will result in cancelation of games.

