

## Game and Practice Cancellation Procedures (for weather)

Soccer culture is that games are played in light to moderate rain. The club will occasionally cancel a set of games or practices for bad weather or because the fields are unplayable. The policies below outline when the club will shut things down, but parents (and coaches) are of course welcome to hold their kids out if that is their best judgment.

**Closing of the HYSC complex.** Games and practices will be cancelled at HYSC by the ASC Director of Coaching or by someone he designates for reasons outlined below. All effort will be made to have decisions at least 2 hours before game/practice starting time. The goal of this policy is that both teams of games (and all parents at practice) will have a clear understanding on whether the game or practice has been cancelled and to avoid situations in which one team comes and its opponent does not. Cancellation notices will be placed at [www.amessoccer.org](http://www.amessoccer.org) and [www.cisleague.org](http://www.cisleague.org) and also will be emailed to coaches and ASC parents distribution lists. "No soccer today" signs will be posted at the complex in most cases.

- If the weather is miserable. This judgment will be based on a combination of cold, wind and rain.
- If the field conditions are poor for play or to use them would unreasonably damage the fields.

Typical reasons that the fields may be closed, even if bad weather has passed, include persistent snow on the ground and rain that has been so pervasive that the fields cannot be drained in time and would be torn up through use.

Depending on the situation, it is possible that only one or two hours' worth of games are cancelled (e.g., a light snow that will melt off or a passing thunderstorm), rather than a whole day's worth of games.

If a set of games is cancelled due to weather, the club will re-schedule the games and notify coaches of the new times and fields.

**Authority of the Referee.** The referee of a game may suspend play on his or her sole judgment due to poor weather or adverse field conditions, even if the complex has not been closed.

**Thunder and Lightning.** Games and practices will be cancelled if severe weather warnings indicating heavy thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and/or dangerous high winds are broadcast from the National Weather Service or a community siren is sounded. Cancellation notices will be placed on the Ames soccer web-site and be emailed to coaches and parents distribution lists. The "No Soccer Today" signs will be posted at HYSC.

During games, any referee hearing thunder or seeing lightning will suspend or cancel play. All games underway at the complex should be suspended. Players and spectators will be asked to clear the field and seek shelter.

If games are more than half over, they should be considered complete. Other games may be resumed after the weather has passed. There will be a 30 minute wait until after the last lightning or thunder before play will be resumed.

Games, once restarted, must end at least 5 minutes before the next scheduled game on that field. This implies that interrupted games, which are being played on a field that is also scheduled for use in the next time-slot, will need to be rescheduled for another time or must resume play on an unscheduled field, subject to the availability of the referee.

During practices, any coach hearing thunder or being informed that thunder was heard will tell the players to clear the field and seek shelter, and will inform other coaches so that all practice at the facility is stopped. Practices ½ or more completed will be considered complete; kids should go home and not wait for a restart of practice. Coaches should not leave until last child has gone home. There will be a 30 minute delay after last occurrence of lightning (or thunder) before practice is restarted.