



HSYSC Extreme Weather Policy

Policy Type: Administration

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The safety of players, coaches, management and spectators is the primary concern in any weather event that occurs during all Hamilton Serbians Youth Soccer Club (HSYSC) activities. By understanding and following the below information, the safety of everyone shall be greatly increased. Ultimately, the referee (for games) or coach (for training sessions), or Technical Director has the final say over delaying or suspending a club activity due to weather. Any training outside the air temperature range of 38 and 2 Celsius is optional by the players should the coach proceed with training.

Waiting to stop play or not waiting to start play may result in a serious injury or loss of life. Referees/coaches are expected to act responsibly when dealing with such events during matches/training sessions they are controlling.

This policy provides direction to govern when and how match competitions and training sessions will proceed under specific weather conditions. It has been developed keeping in mind **Environment Canada's** definition and recommendations for Extreme Heat and Extreme Cold, as well as **Canada Soccer's Lightning Safety / Severe Weather Policy**.

EXTREME HEAT

Where the air temperatures (including the Humidex) reach the following thresholds one hour prior to club activities the Club is advised to use the following guidelines:

- Temperature of **32°C or lower**. All club activity (training sessions and matches) may proceed as normal.
- Temperature of **between 32°C and 38°C**. All club activity may proceed with additional water breaks. For matches, it is up to the discretion of the referee and/or coaches to provide more than one 2 minutes water break per half. Shall a team not be able to field the minimum number of players for the match it is recommended that both the referee(s) and coaches agree to shorten the game by at least 10%.
- Temperature of **38°C or higher**. The Club may cancel all outdoor club activity based on recommendations from the City of Hamilton. In addition to the air temperature, the Club may cancel club activities one-hour prior should the Air Quality Index be Poor in the City of Hamilton (as determined by Environment Canada).



EXTREME COLD

- Temperature of **2°C or higher**. All club activity may proceed as normal.
- Temperature of **below 2°C**. All outdoor club activity may be cancelled.

THUNDER & LIGHTNING: *“When thunder raw’s, go indoors”*

In the event of thunder and/or lightning, HSYSC adheres to the **Canada Soccer Lightning Safety / Severe Weather Policy**.

The decision to suspend a game will be made by senior referees (for matches) and head coaches (for training) and they are advised to take a “better safe than sorry” approach during electrical storms. All parties are advised to take shelter in a safe location right away and club activities **must not resume until 30 minutes after the last thunder or lightning**.

“Club activities” refers to all training sessions, games, camps, et cetera conducted and organized by HSYSC. For competitive league games the respective league’s rules and regulations are followed.

PRECIPITATION

- Snowfall and rainfall (without an electrical storm) do not warrant the cancellation of club activities unless the respective facilities have been closed by the City of Hamilton or the Private facility owner.
- The Club reserves the right to cancel training session at their discretion due to weather.

CANCELLATIONS, RESCHEDULING, AND RESULTS:

Whenever possible, HSYSC will inform players of cancellations and rescheduling due to bad weather a minimum of 1-2 hours prior to the intended start time via SportsEngine. Players/Guardians are expected to check SportsEngine platform for any updates when bad weather is suspected.