

# **ATTLEBORO RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER GUIDELINES**

The Director of Recreation or a designee thereof has the right to cancel any activity or event on a city recreational facility at any time to ensure the safety of the participants and to prevent city fields from getting abused and destroyed when the turf is vulnerable.

All users of recreational facilities are REQUIRED to cancel an activity or event when potentially hazardous weather/field conditions exist. In addition to the use of common sense, if any one of the following conditions exists immediate cancellation is mandatory:

1. Downpours, heavy rains, ongoing showers, snow, sleet, hail etc.
2. Standing puddles of water on a field.
3. Footing is unsure and slippery.
4. Ground is waterlogged and slushy or squishy.
5. Grass can be pulled out of the ground easily.
6. Lightning: Minimum of 30 minutes with no reoccurrence before re-entering the field.

The safety and well being of persons participating in athletic programs is of primary concern. Sports related injuries caused by poor playing conditions can lead to career ending injuries and permanent disabilities.

Additionally, when games are played on fields with poor conditions, it often causes irreversible damage to the fields. Surface damage is obvious and visible but as of equal concern from maintenance perspective is the sub-surface damage.

It shall be the responsibility of the individual who signed the permit to ensure that all individuals, teams or groups using a city recreational field do not use and/or vacate the field(s) when said conditions exist.

Each league of Organization shall (1) Provide a copy of these guidelines to each board member and coach within their organization. (2) Provide a copy of these guidelines to any officiating organizations that may control the suspension of a game or match once play has begun. (3) Post these guidelines on their official website.

Teams or Leagues that refuse to follow this policy will be subjected to one or more of the following disciplinary actions:

1. Written warning to the President/Chairman of the organization.
2. Suspension of the team/organization from practicing on the fields for (1) week
3. Forfeiture of a team's privileges to either practice or play games on the City of Attleboro's fields for the remainder of the season.
4. Having the league pay for damages caused by disregard to this policy.

ADOPTED BY THE RECREATION COMMISSION ON THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2007