

Shawnee Soccer Association (SSA)

Game Reschedule and Weather Policy

ALL RESCHEDULES MUST GO THROUGH SSA REFEREE COORDINATOR/ ASSIGNOR

RESCHEDULE POLICY- The only games allowed to be rescheduled are those which the home game club cancels or closes due to weather or local emergencies on game day; where either team has a school function that involves more than 50% of the team; or a team has entered a USYS sanctioned tournament that conflicts with the game.

Recreational Coaches are NOT allowed to reschedule games due to rain or if temperatures are 40 degrees or above. If a recreational team chooses not to play, except when temperatures are between 20 and 39 degrees, they WILL forfeit the game.

If a conflict due to an emergency, school function or USYS sanctioned tournament arises, the Referee Coordinator/Assignor must be notified. Conflicts due to USYS sanctioned tournaments will be approved for reschedule. If less than 72-hour notice is given, the team requesting the reschedule is responsible to pay the referee fees for the rescheduled game.

If the home team Referee Coordinator/Assignor approves the game to be rescheduled the following guidelines will take effect:

- A.** If more than a 72-hour notice of the scheduled game has been given & Referee Coordinator/Assignor approves the reschedule, the game will be rescheduled. Both coaches must agree to the rescheduled game time. The game should be rescheduled within seven days of the postponement.
- B.** If a 72-hour notice or less of the scheduled game has not been given & the home team Referee Coordinator/Assignor approves the reschedule, the team requesting the reschedule will be responsible to pay the referee fees for the rescheduled game.
- C.** The referee fees for games where teams are required to pay due to late notice, must be paid in cash to the center referee prior to kick-off or, when necessary, to the club prior to the rescheduled game. If the referee fees are not paid, the game will not be played, and a forfeit recorded against the team requesting the reschedule.

Travel During Severe Weather

Player Safety is always the top priority. Due to the potential for severe weather in every season, please check with the complex to ensure that it is open. SSA posts field status on our Facebook Page, Website, TeamApp and Twitter Account @ssafieldstatus.

If it is not safe to travel, please contact your opponent as early as possible. Home coaches are required to contact opponents who are traveling to forewarn them of complex closures or time/field changes due to severe weather conditions. Verification that the information was received must be received. (If you email or text the opposing team you must receive confirmation that they received the information.)

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Weather Reschedule Policy

For New Kicks, U7 and U8 Teams:

All Games will be cancelled when temperatures are below 40 degrees.

For team U9 and older:

1. 40 degrees or above – The match will play as scheduled, if a team decides not to play then the result will be recorded as a forfeit (3-0).
2. 20-39 degrees - Game may be played if both teams deem appropriate. Either team may "veto" playing, and the game will be rescheduled.
3. 19 degrees or below – Game(s) will be postponed.

In the event of diminished playing circumstances (rain, cold, etc.) if the complex remains open and the referee declares the field conditions safe for play. The teams/coach do not have the authority, even by mutual agreement, to reschedule the match. Failure to play the match will result in a review by SSA and the match may be declared a forfeit.

Lightning

During game the referee has the final say over delaying or restarting a match due to weather. For PRACTICES, the **COACH** has the responsibility of player safety. Waiting to stop play or not waiting to start play may result in a serious injury or loss of life. Referees are expected to act responsibly when dealing with such events during matches they are controlling.

Monitor local weather reports daily. Be diligently aware of potential thunderstorms that may form during scheduled soccer events or practices and monitor warning signs of developing thunderstorms in the area, such as high winds or darkening skies.

➤ **LIGHTNING is **seen** or THUNDER is **heard**, teams must disband practice and “EVERYONE” must clear the fields.**

➤ **Disbanding practice isn't good enough. If they are out on the field still playing around they are still in danger!**

➤ **Know where the closest “safe structure or location” is to the field or playing area and know how long it takes to get to that safe structure or location. Safe structure or location is defined as: Any building normally occupied or frequently used by people, i.e., a building with plumbing and / or electrical wiring that acts to electrically ground the structure.**

➤ **In the absence of a sturdy, frequently inhabited building, any vehicle with a hard metal roof (not a convertible or golf cart) and rolled-up windows can provide a measure of safety. A vehicle is certainly better than remaining outdoors. It is not the rubber tires that make a vehicle a safe shelter, but the hard metal roof which dissipates the lightning strike around the vehicle. Do not touch the sides of any vehicle!**

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If unable to reach safe shelter, stay away from the tallest trees or objects such as light poles or flag poles), metal objects (such as fences or bleachers), individual trees, standing pools of water, and open fields. Weather Radio apps and local weather station apps are great tools for receiving severe weather notifications for our area.

The existence of blue sky and absence of rain are not protection from lightning. Lightning can and does strike as far as ten (10) miles away from the rain shaft. It does not have to be raining for lightning to strike. Many lightning casualties occur in the beginning, as the storm approaches, because many people ignore initial precursors of high winds, some rainfall and cloud cover. Generally, the lightning threat diminishes with time after the last sound of thunder but may persist for more than thirty (30) minutes.

Recognize that personal observation of lightning may not be sufficient. Additional weather information may be required to ensure consistency, accuracy and adequate advance warning.

When considering resumption of any soccer activity, it is recommended that everyone should ideally wait at least thirty (30) minutes after the last flash of lightning or sound of thunder before returning to the field.

REMEMBER: SAFETY FIRST

Approximately 70 people are killed by lightning and 400 are injured in any given year in the U.S. (NOAA)

On average, 10% of strike victims die and 70% suffer serious long-term effects. (NOAA)

The second most likely place of occurrence for a person to be struck is at a ball field or open field.

Bolts of lightning reach temperatures as high as 50,000 degrees.

The average thunderstorm is six to ten miles wide.

The average rate of travel of a thunderstorm is 25 mph.

Lightning can strike from as far away as 10 miles