

# Weather Policy

## Delays / Suspensions / Cancellations

*The following policy is to be enforced for all Blaine Area Little League (BALL) activities. Included are: games, practices, scrimmages, and any other associated outdoor activity.*

**ALWAYS ASSUME THE GAME IS TO BE PLAYED** - If you have not been contacted by the League, or viewed a weather update on our website ([baseball.bslpaa.org](http://baseball.bslpaa.org)), the status of the game will be decided at the field by the Umpires or League Executives.

### **PRIOR TO GAME TIME**

City Park status updates will be available at 763-785-6164 or Blaine Park & Rec.'s 24-hour hotline at 763-717-2709 for information on activity cancellations. BALL game cancellations will also be posted on our website ([baseball.bslpaa.org](http://baseball.bslpaa.org)) after approximately 4:00 pm on weekdays and 8:00 am on weekends when there is inclement weather or wet fields. If there is no daily update, assume your game will be played as scheduled. Game-time cancellations may be made if there are late changes in the weather, and we will make every effort to contact team coaches as soon as a decision is made. We understand it is an inconvenience to travel to the park only to have your game cancelled, but our goal is to play whenever weather conditions allow. Practices, scrimmages and other activities will be decided by coaches and organizers.

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If you do not find a cancellation notice on our website, or no cancellation is reported via the Park Board's direct number or hotline, ASSUME THE GAME WILL BE PLAYED, and the following pre-game weather rules will be in effect:

### **Tornado Watch / Tornado Warning**

If watch or warning is in effect at 4:00 pm on weekdays, or 8:00 am on weekends...ALL ACTIVITIES FOR THAT DAY WILL BE CANCELLED.

### **Severe Thunderstorm Watch / Warning**

If a watch/warning is in effect at game time, report to the ballpark and an onsite determination will be made by a conference of league officials, coaches and umpires. In this situation, you as a parent or guardian have the right to decide on whether or not to go to the park, but if game is playable, a forfeit may result from not having enough players to compete. ASSUME THE GAME WILL BE PLAYED.

### **Lightning**

If lightning strikes are visible at game time, report to the ballpark and an onsite determination will be made by a conference of league officials, coaches and umpires. In this situation, you as a parent or guardian have the right to decide on whether or not to go to the park, but if game is playable, a forfeit may result from not having enough players to compete. ASSUME THE GAME WILL BE PLAYED.

## **Rain**

If it is raining at game time, report to the ballpark and an onsite determination will be made by a conference of league officials, coaches and umpires. In this situation, you as a parent or guardian have the right to decide on whether or not to go to the park, but if game is playable, a forfeit may result from not having enough players to compete. **ASSUME THE GAME WILL BE PLAYED.**

## **Exception**

If a game field normally hosts back-to-back contests, and the first of the two games is cancelled prior start because of weather or poor field conditions, **THE SECOND GAME ON THE CALENDAR WILL ALSO BE CANCELLED AND RESCHEDULED.**

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## **DURING THE GAME**

Once the team lineups have been submitted to the Chief Umpire (or in younger divisions after the pregame conference has concluded), any decisions regarding game suspension or cancellation are at the sole discretion of the Chief Umpire.

If a game is suspended by rain, have the players stay in their dugouts, find local onsite shelter, or with the umpire's permission go to their cars and wait at least 30 minutes to see if the game can be resumed. If persistent downpours or poor field conditions prevent continuation, the game will be postponed and rescheduled.

If lightning strikes in the 'visible' vicinity, suspend the game and require all players to seek shelter away from trees and metal objects. Allow everyone to go to their cars if they choose. Monitor the sky for more lightning, and if there are no visible strikes for a minimum of 20 minutes, resume the game. If after you have waited for 1 hour, and no 20 minute period without lightning occurs, the game will be postponed and rescheduled.

If the severe weather siren sounds at the complex, play is to be suspended immediately and it will not resume. Everyone should be directed to head for shelter. Managers and Coaches - make sure every player on your team is accounted for and has someone to go with for safety. The game will be rescheduled.

## **Exceptions**

- 1) If a game field normally hosts back-to-back contests, and the first of the two games is suspended because of weather and resumed, the first game's time allotment will not be extended. If the required innings to be considered a complete game are not met, the game will be postponed at the end of its time allotment and rescheduled for completion. The second game on the calendar will begin on time, as scheduled, as long as weather still permits.
- 2) If a game field normally hosts back-to-back contests, and the first of the two games is suspended and then postponed (rescheduled to continue from the point of suspension) due to weather, **THE SECOND GAME ON THE CALENDAR WILL BE CANCELLED AND RESCHEDULED.**

## **RESCHEDULED GAMES**

If a game needs to be rescheduled because of the above situations, whether due to cancellation or postponement, the arrangements will be made by the Division Commissioners and the Field Coordinator. The dates and times of the makeup games will be communicated to the coaches and Umpire-In-Chief, and will also be posted on our website (baseball.bslpaa.org). We will attempt to reschedule these games for the earliest available field openings. **COACHES ARE NOT TO SCHEDULE MAKEUP GAMES ON THEIR OWN.**