



# Novato Youth Soccer Association Air Quality and Weather Policy

Novato Youth Soccer Association (NYSA) recognizes [www.purpleair.com](http://www.purpleair.com) as its main source for hyper-local, real-time air quality data in Novato and the greater North Bay area. **NYSA uses corrective filters found on [www.purpleair.com](http://www.purpleair.com), which provide greater accuracy when determining the quality of the air.** Specifically, NYSA uses the “AQ and U” corrective factor.

It is possible that poor air quality and extreme weather may affect the NYSA game and practice schedule. Decisions on cancelling games and practices will be made by considering the air quality index of the practice or game location. In all cases, it is the league that will cancel games officially. For MISA games, there will be times when other clubs cancel games based on AQI evaluation at the location of their home field.

NYSA understands that parents/guardians are the ultimate decision-maker for their youth player’s safety. If a parent/guardian decides that their player shouldn’t attend a game or practice based on poor air quality or extreme weather conditions, the coach shall accept that decision without any repercussions.

## **NYSA Air Quality Guidelines for Practices:**

- At a 150 or greater air quality index, all outdoor practices must be cancelled.
- At a 100-149 air quality index, a coach may cancel practice if it is deemed unhealthy for players. If practice is held, coaches shall ensure that intensity and duration are reduced.
- All head coaches are responsible for communicating that practice is cancelled by notifying players and parents/guardians on the roster.

## **NYSA Air Quality Guidelines for Games:**

- At a 150 or greater air quality index, all outdoor games must be cancelled.
- At a 100-149 air quality index, all outdoor games shall institute extra rest breaks and coaches should increase substitution rates to lower player exertion.
- The decision to cancel games shall be made by NYSA’s VP of Rec in accordance with this policy via direct notifications to coaches within 90 minutes of game start time. In turn, coaches are responsible for notifying players and parents/guardians.
- The club will notify coaches of cancelled games by email so please be on the ready

## **NYSA Weather Guidelines for Practices:**

- At 100 °F or higher, all outdoor practices must be cancelled.
- At 90-100 °F, a coach may cancel practice if he or she deems the weather to be unsafe. If practice is held, the coach shall ensure that extra water breaks are available and practice intensity is reduced.



- If fields have been closed by Novato Unified School District or NYSA due to rain, all outdoor practices on natural grass are cancelled. Practices on artificial turf may continue to take place.
- Coaches are responsible for cancelling practices due to the weather circumstances. Additionally, they are responsible for notifying players and parents/guardians.

#### **NYSA Weather Guidelines for Games:**

- At 100 °F or higher, all outdoor games must be cancelled.
- At 90-100 °F, coaches shall ensure that extra water breaks are available and substitution rates are increased.
- If fields have been closed by Novato Unified School District or NYSA due to rain, all outdoor games on natural grass are cancelled. Games on artificial turf may continue to take place.
- The decision to cancel games shall be made by NYSA's VP of Rec in accordance with this policy via direct notifications to coaches within 90 minutes of game start time. In turn, coaches are responsible for notifying players and parents/guardians.

#### **Coach Guide for High AQI or Temperature:**

- Even if AQI doesn't hit 150 or temperature doesn't hit 100 degrees, please be mindful of the conditions.
- The following are beneficial for games or practices as the extreme limits of AQI or heat are approached: increased subbing, highly encouraged water breaks, increased # of water breaks, setting up "water & rest breaks" in the middle of the half during games.

#### **Why does NYSA use corrective filters on Purple Air for its AQI readings?**

- Purple Air's sensors are not set up to measure particulate matter caused by wildfire smoke accurately due to the lighter density of wildfire smoke particles.
- When you go to the Purple Air map, you will see in the box to the lower left a menu that says "none". This means you are reading the map without any corrective filters in place.
- When you click on the menu, you will see several corrective filters. The one that NYSA uses is called "AQ and U". This corrective filter has been designed to calculate actual AQI when the dominant particulate matter being monitored is caused by wildfire smoke. Click on "AQ and U" to adjust the AQI readings to what NYSA will use to determine games and practices.