



NCSA Inclement Weather Policy

Thunder/Lightning Policy

Thunder and lightning necessitate that all soccer activities (e.g., games, practices, special events) be suspended. The occurrence of thunder and/or lightning is not subject to interpretation or discussion. Players and spectators shall be directed to seek shelter. The responsible authority shall make every reasonable effort to resume and complete the activity with consideration of the weather and site conditions.

Prior to Activity

If thunder and/or lightning is observed at the site of the activity by the officials/coordinators/coaches 30 minutes or less before the scheduled start of the activity, the activity will not begin. Before the activity can begin, a 30-minute period void of thunder and/or lightning must be observed.

In the event the weather is forecasted to be severe, potentially posing a safety risk, NCSA reserves the right to cancel soccer activities more than 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start of any activity.

During the Activity

If thunder and/or lightning is observed by officials/coordinators/coaches during the activity, they shall immediately cease play for 30 minutes. Play must not resume until there has been a period of at least 30 minutes in which no thunder and/or lightning has been observed.

Determining Field Playability

Standing water occurs when the ground is saturated. Removing standing water does not eliminate the saturation. It is the saturation and not standing water that causes damage and unsafe conditions. Determining the playability of an athletic field is crucial to the continued health of turf and grass fields and the sustainability of the fields throughout the season. NCSA will close athletic fields if staff determines that fields are too wet for play, or if other issues arise that would compromise player safety.

Factors considered by NCSA Staff:

- Standing water present on any part of the field that cannot be removed without causing damage to the field.
- Muddy conditions that will not dry by the start of the event.
- While walking on the field, water can be seen or heard with a footstep.
- While walking on the field, any impression of your footprint is left in the surface.
- Water gathers around the sole of a shoe or boot on any portion of the field.

Heat Index Procedure

The heat index (also known as the “feels like” temperature) will be checked one hour before the activity by NCSA staff when the temperature is 80 degrees (Fahrenheit) or higher. NCSA will use the www.wgrz.com weather alert center, or a comparable weather application on a smart phone (such as AccuWeather), to determine the heat index at the location of the activity. Quick reference: The zip code for Fredonia is 14063 and for Dunkirk is 14048.

If the heat index is 96 degrees (Fahrenheit) or more, the activity will be cancelled.

Please refer to the following chart to take the appropriate actions:

Feels like (Heat Index) under 79 degrees	Full activity. No restrictions.
Heat Index Watch: Feels like (Heat Index) 80 degrees to 85 degrees	Provide ample water and multiple water breaks. Monitor athletes for heat illness* Consider reducing the duration of each half or quarter in the game
Heat Index Watch: Feels like (Heat Index) 86 degrees to 90 degrees	Provide ample water and multiple water breaks. Monitor athletes for heat illness* Consider reducing the duration of each half or quarter in the game
Heat Index Watch: Feels like (Heat Index) 91 degrees to 95 degrees	Provide ample water and water breaks every 15 minutes. Monitor athletes for heat illness*
Heat Index Watch: Feels like (Heat Index) 96 degrees or greater	No outside activity, practice, or game should be held.

*Symptoms of heat illness include the following: muscle cramps, pale skin, fever over 102 degrees, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, headache, fatigue, weakness, anxiety

Player participation is always at the discretion of the participants parent/guardian

Notice of cancelation of soccer activities will be made via email blast and/or Facebook post (<https://www.facebook.com/mynca/>)