



Williamson County Soccer Association Weather Policy (Approved August 2013)

1. Introduction

This document details WCSA policy in the event inclement weather threatens the WCSA Complex during a game day or evening.

This Policy cannot, and does not, protect any or every individual from property damage or injury. A safe and effective response to inclement weather is the responsibility of the individual, parent and/or guardian.

WCSA does not assume any responsibility or liability for injury or property damage due to inclement weather.

2. Equipment

In September, 2012, WCSA purchased Gibson Ridge Level 3, Version 2.x radar software (the "Radar"). WCSA also purchased an Allison House subscription to provide data to the Radar, which has been installed on a desktop PC located in the WCSA Office.

The Radar is configured to display precipitation, USPLN lightning data, Severe Thunderstorm and Tornado Watch boxes and Warning polygons. Two placefiles have been installed on the radar which label the exact location of the WCSA Complex, along with concentric circles depicting radii of 15, 12, 8 and 6 miles from the Complex.

The WCSA will also purchase a NOAA weather radio as a secondary/backup source of warning information. Also purchased will be a Kestrel handheld device to calculate temperature, dew point, relative humidity, and wind chill.

3. Monitoring the Radar

The Radar will be monitored by a WCSA official trained to understand the Radar and data displayed.

4. NWS & Contact Information

In the event any WCSA official has a question about the threat of a particular storm or the general threat for storms, he/she should dial the public number for the National Weather Service in Nashville: [615-754-8500](tel:615-754-8500). Questions about this policy, the Gibson Ridge radar, or any other matter may be answered by contacting David Drobny at 615-202-2065 (cell).

5. Game Day Protocols

WCSA reserves the right to delay, suspend, or cancel play due to anticipated severe weather conditions.

6. Game In-Progress Protocols

a. Suspensions & Cancellations

Decisions about suspension or cancelation of play will be made by any member of the Board. Under no circumstance will a player be penalized for his/her decision to abandon play and/or the Complex out of legitimate concern of inclement weather.

b. Announcements

Announcements may be made over the public address loudspeaker and disseminated via @WCSAInfo (Twitter), as quickly as practical.

7. Lightning

a. Detection Methods

If, at any time, a referee observes lightning or hears thunder, the referee shall immediately suspend play. Play shall not resume until after 30 minutes have elapsed since the last observed occurrence of lightning or thunder. Every referee is permitted, unilaterally and at his/her discretion, to suspend play.

In addition, Gibson Ridge software and USPLN data will be utilized in the Field Office to determine the proximity of lightning to the Complex. Any WCSA official who observes lightning on the radar in proximity to the Complex based on the below criteria shall suspend and resume play as indicated. WSCA officials are also empowered to suspend play in the same manner as an official.

Visual observations are encouraged and should be used when in conflict with radar data.

b. Designated Shelters

In the event of lightning, people should be directed to fully enclosed indoor facilities and vehicles. The Indoor Soccer Arena shall be the primary shelter in the event of lightning. If the Arena is closed, people should be directed to their cars.

No place outside is safe if lightning is in the vicinity. Partially enclosed vending areas, the pavilion, and picnic shelters are not safe.

b. Lightning detected within 15 miles

The following announcement is made over the loudspeaker:

Lightning has been detected within 15 miles of the WCSA Complex. Play may be suspended soon. Prepare to seek shelter in your car [or inside the Indoor Arena if it's open]. Outdoor pavilions are not safe and should be abandoned.

The following will be sent via @WCSAInfo:

Lightning has been detected within 15 miles of the fields. Seek shelter in cars or indoor arena if play is suspended.

c1. Lightning detected within 12 miles and the storm is moving toward the Complex

Play is suspended and evacuation of the fields begins. The following announcement is made:

Inclement weather is moving toward the Complex. Play is suspended until further notice. Immediately leave your field and go to the Indoor facility or your vehicle, then await further instructions on Twitter @WCSAInfo. Outdoor pavilions are not safe and should be abandoned.

The following will be sent via @WCSAInfo:

Play has been suspended due to lightning. Proceed to the indoor arena or to your car and await further information.

c2. Lightning detected within 12 miles but no storm is moving toward the Complex

Play will not be suspended.

d. Lightning detected within 8 miles of the Complex regardless of the direction of the storm.

Play is suspended.

The following announcement is made:

Lightning has been detected within 8 miles of the Complex. Play is suspended until further notice. Immediately leave your field and go to the Indoor facility or your vehicle, then await further instructions on Twitter @WCSAInfo. Outdoor pavilions are not safe and should be abandoned.

The following will be sent via @WCSAInfo:

Play has been suspended due to lightning. Go to the indoor arena or to your car and await further information.

e. Severe Thunderstorm or Tornado Watch In Effect

A watch indicates that conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop.

A warning means that severe weather has been detected and/or may be imminent. The NWS depicts the warned area in a polygon.

Storms do not always move in a predictable, linear fashion. Storms can also develop at or near the Complex and intensify before they are seen on radar.

In the event of a Severe Thunderstorm Watch or Tornado Watch, the following tweet shall be sent from @WCSAInfo:

The Soccer Complex is under a [Severe Thunderstorm or Tornado] Watch. Consult reliable weather sources for additional information.

f. Severe Thunderstorm or Tornado Warning

In the event the Complex is inside a Tornado Warning polygon, the following announcement is made:

The National Weather Service has issued a [Severe/Tornado] Warning for the WCSA Complex. [Read the warning information in the text of the warning]

The following tweet shall be sent from @WCSAInfo:

The NWS has issued a [Severe/Tornado] Warning for our fields. There is no structure on the premises guaranteed safe from a [severe thunderstorm/tornado].

A second tweet shall announce whether play is suspended or canceled for the day.

g. Resumption of Play

If suspended due to lightning, play resumes 30 minutes after the last detection of lightning within a 6 mile radius of the Complex. Play may also resume if 30 minutes have elapsed since the last observed occurrence of lightning and thunder.

If suspended due to other severe weather, play resumes after the storm has moved outside a 6 mile radius of the Complex. Lightning rules still apply.

8. Heat Index on Game Days

Locked in the Field Office shall be a handheld Kestrel device, which measures temperature, dew point, relative humidity, and wind chill. The device shall be taken into the shade and left (off the ground) for three minutes. The heat index shall be calculated. That number shall be disseminated via Twitter @WCSAInfo.

WCSA adopts the TSSAA heat index policy as set forth here:
<http://www.tssaa.org/handbook/heatpolicy.pdf>.

(Policy version 1.2, August 12, 2013)