

## **Inclement Weather and Field Closure Policy- 09/09**

For the sake of communication in inclement weather situations we will use the following determination process when closing sports facilities:

**Turf Areas**- if water is standing or when normal walking displaces water, fields will be closed.

**Clay Areas**- If water is standing on clay area and normal walking causes sliding or deep depression into clay, the fields will be closed. Also, if plate area, mound or base areas are wet and unsafe the field will be closed. If a player cannot make normal start and stop movements or run without sliding and slipping the field will be closed.

**Lightning**- Fields will be closed if staff hears thunder or sees lightning for a minimum of 30 minutes from the last sound/visual. Once 30 minutes have passed fields may be reopened. This is the new National Federation of High School Sports policy and seems to be the simplest and straightforward method of deciding when participation should stop and when it can resume. Remember if you see or hear clear and wait 30 minutes from last visual/sound.

### **WEEKDAYS**

The Parks Division staff will provide an "early" report at 3:30pm when they come in for the day. For any start prior to and including 5:30pm we will notify the sport division contact by 4pm about the status of the facility. A sport division representative may meet on-site with the Parks Division staff if so desired. If closed the Parks Division staff will lock all applicable gates.

For any start after 5:30pm, 1 hour prior to the starting time Parks Division staff and a representative of the sport division may meet at the site and walk the facility in order to determine playability. If the facility is closed the gates will be locked at that time and contact will be made to the proper sport division contact.

The Parks Division may designate certain areas closed and others open. It will be the responsibility of the user group to make sure their teams and participants stay off those designated areas.

Any facility that is open and then followed by inclement weather will have a decision made at the site. Site supervision should use the tests above when determining playability.

If inclement weather forces closing of a facility the Athletics and Sport and/or Parks Division staff will try to alert your primary contact person via email or phone. We will also notify our front desk staff in case they receive calls to the main Recreation phone line.

## **WEEKENDS**

Parks Division weekend staff will make their opening rounds to open parks and by 7:30am they will be able to provide a status report for those facilities in question. If a facility is not playable Parks Division weekend supervisor will contact the appropriate sport division contact.

If at any time during a weekend day the fields become unplayable, the weekend supervisor will be responsible for making contact with the sport division site supervisor to go through the options available (cancel, suspend, set new starting time, etc)

## **ADDITIONAL FACTORS USED TO MAKE DECISIONS**

- Safety of the participants is foremost
- Some of our fields drain better than others- even fields in the same complex
- Observation of weather radar
- Staffing availability

## **FIELD DAMAGES**

Any damage done to a field through use following a closure or by disregarding the standards from above may result in facility being closed for repair, revocation of permit, and/or billable charges to the sport division responsible for the damage.