



## **Weather Policies/Procedures**

### **Adverse Weather – Canceling of Practices/Games**

#### **Home Diamond Conditions**

The Municipality will make the call if the diamonds are unplayable based on weather (e.g. rain). Although the diamonds are set up to be well-drained, occasionally games/practices might need to be canceled to protect the diamond. Every effort will be made to cancel at a minimum up to two (2) hours before the scheduled game/practice. The Municipality contacts Lynda, and she or the Registrar will let coaches know.

**It is the responsibility of the coaches/team manager to contact the parents of your team as well as the coaches/team managers of the opposing teams to notify them of the cancellation. Each team has been provided with a league/contact sheet.**

#### **Adverse Weather during Games/Practices – Lighting/Thunder**

Dunwich Dutton Softball follows Softball and Baseball Ontario rules in line with Environment Canada related to Lightning:

#### **WHEN THUNDER ROARS, GO INDOORS!**

If you can hear thunder, you can get hit by lightning. Take shelter immediately. If you cannot find a sturdy, fully enclosed building with wiring and plumbing, get into a metal-roofed vehicle. Stay inside for 30 minutes after the last rumble of thunder.

Direct strikes are responsible for only 5% of lightning-related deaths and injuries. Two other types of hazardous phenomena are caused by lightning. Ground current and side flash account for 60 to 80% of lightning-related injuries and deaths. A ground current is set up when lightning hits the ground,

spreads out and sends a current through a victim. Side splash occurs when lightning hits a tall object, travels partly down the object and then jumps to a nearby victim.

If there is a lightning/thunder during your game/practice:

- all individuals must vacate the field immediately and take cover indoors. At the Sons of Scotland Park, the Lions Dens is designated as our mustering area.
- Coaches/Umpire must discuss whether to delay the game/practice or to cancel.
- At a minimum, a delay of 30 minutes must take place.
- Coaches may use the Canadian Lightning Danger Map (CLDM) which is available on mobile devices to help make decisions. This map shows red areas that are most at risk of having lightning strike the ground in the next 10 minutes.
- Coaches must notify the parents whether a 30 minute delay has ensued or whether the game/practice is being canceled.
- If there is an extreme Thunderstorm Watch – all coaches are encouraged to refer to the radar and weather forecasts to monitor weather conditions.
- If there is a Thunderstorm Warning – this means a thunderstorm is either occurring or is going to occur. Coaches are asked to monitor weather as best as they are able. Occasionally the association may make the decision to cancel if needed.

## **Playing in the Heat**

With the heart of the summer comes warm weather. All players should come to the game with cold water and sunscreen applied.

Regardless of how warm it is, coaches and parents should all watch for signs and symptoms of heat exhaustion with players: dizziness, headache, weakness or exhaustion, tremors, muscle cramps, nausea or vomiting, or unusual heart beat. If someone has a throbbing headache, vomiting, and a rapid strong pulse, this may be a sign of heat stroke and you should call 911 right away, and help cool the person until help arrives.

Southwestern Public Health Unit and Environment Canada issue extreme heat warnings when the humidex reaches high and/or extreme levels. Please refer to the following zones for playing outside in the heat (temperatures should factor in humidity considerations, aka the humidex):

**White Zone (Humidex of 18C – 26C):** No special measures need to be taken, aside from regular hydration and sunscreen application.

**Yellow Zone (Humidex 27C – 36C):** Coaches are encouraged to take extra steps to protect players by making sure they stay hydrated and by encouraging frequent substitution during games and practices.

**Orange Zone (Humidex of 37C – 40C):** All measures in the Yellow Zone apply. Catchers are a particular focus, and consecutive innings of catching should generally be limited to 2 (House League). Exceptions may be made on a player-by-player basis, at Coaches' discretion, provided that player is closely monitored and staying well hydrated. The length of House League games will be modified according to the schedule below:

- Timbits: games will be reduced by 15 minutes
- 9U (Rookie) and 11U (Mosquito): games will be reduced by 20 minutes

If it is a practice day, all coaches are instructed to reduce the time of practice, to give frequent breaks and to ensure players stay well-hydrated. When within the Red Zone, the Registrar will notify coaches/parents of cancelling of all Timbits games/practices.

**Red Zone (Humidex of 41C – 46C):** Tee Ball/Timbits games will be cancelled at these temperatures. A notification will be sent to coaches and parents/guardians.

All measures in Yellow and Orange Zones apply to other age Divisions. Coaches will make a decision to proceed based on input from parents/guardians, and will contact their Convenor immediately to let them know of their decision.

**Black Zone (Humidex of 47C+):** All practices and games will be cancelled and a notification will be sent to coaches and parents/guardians.

**Note:** The humidex will rise and fall depending upon time of day, amount of wind, cloud cover, etc. The above program modifications could also change throughout the course of the day. For example a 6:15 game may be in the Orange Zone, but an evening game (this year) might only be a Yellow Zone. Coaches should check the weather ahead of the practice/game and follow the appropriate program modifications.

The above are merely guidelines and it is the responsibility of parents or guardians to make the ultimate decisions as to the participation of their child in events when heat may be a factor, taking into consideration the age and physical condition of their child. Parents also have the ultimate responsibility to inform their child about playing in the heat and the need to approach it responsibly with sunscreen, proper hydration, and adequate breaks.

### **Advisories by Southwestern Public Health – Air Quality**

Southwestern Public Health Unit may release statements advising of air quality concerns for children of a certain age. The Registrar will monitor these releases, and advise on cancellations to coaches. Every effort will be made to notify of cancellations a minimum of two (2) hours before scheduled diamond times.

**It is the responsibility of the coaches/team manager to contact the parents of your team as well as the coaches/team managers of the opposing teams to notify them of the cancellation. Each team has been provided with a league/contact sheet.**