



NORTH CARROLL RECREATION COUNCIL

IN COOPERATION WITH CARROLL COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION
IS OFFERING THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS



Parents/Participants:

We need your help to ensure that our volunteer coaches, player participants, and you are not in harm's way during severe weather events or delays.

Parent we need your help in the ways listed below.

1. Assist the coaches by being on the lookout for thunder or lightning or high winds as storms approach for practices, games, and scrimmages.
2. Notify the nearest coach immediately at the sound of thunder or sight of lightning. **The County Regulation states that all outdoor activities must stop action and wait 30 minutes for each sound of thunder or sight of lightning or high winds. The clock will restart for each occurrence for an additional 30 minutes.**
3. Please adhere to the coaches' request to enter your cars during the 30-minute waiting period for the severe weather to pass. If you do not comply with the coaches' request to enter your car, you assume the liability for yourself and your family.
4. All player participants will be removed from the playing fields. **No one is allowed on a playing field during a severe weather event or delay.**

The NCRC does not want to be hypocritical in our mission to deliver for our community and its participants, by knowingly and selfishly putting them in harm's way to complete a simple game, scrimmage, or practice session. This NCRC policy will be considered an addendum to the Carroll County Sever Weather/Lightning Policy.

NCRC Severe Weather Non-Compliance Policy: (Effective Immediately)

1. **REPORTED NON-COMPLIANCE** - Each non-compliance report received will be verified.
 - Typically, we receive calls from concerned parents.
 - NCRC executive Board Members also drive to our known fields to check for compliance when severe weather occurs.
 - Additionally, CCRP representatives occasionally check county fields during inclement weather occurrences.
2. **COACHING EXPECTATIONS – Immediately remove all participants and families from the playing fields. Strongly encourage them to get into their cars or the nearest accessible building.**
 - These expectations are effective locally for NCRC fields and when your team travels.
 - We understand that you cannot force anyone into their cars or even a safe building, but you must demand them off of the playing fields.
 - Once you have demanded them off of the playing fields, your job is done. At that point, the liability is on the parent.
3. **NON-COMPLIANCE** – Hopefully, these are rulings that the NCRC Executive Board will not have to enforce against any of its many, fantastic volunteers.
 - 1st Offense – **2-Week Suspension** for Coach or Coaches not in compliance.
 - i. **Cannot attend practices or games during this period as a coach.**
 - ii. **There will be no coaching allowed from the parent sideline during this suspension period.**
 - iii. **Non-compliance with this ruling will be considered a second offense.**
 - 2nd Offense – **The Coach or Coaches will be immediately removed from the NCRC Program.**
 - i. Additionally, **the offending NCRC Program will be fined at a minimum \$500 for the second infraction.**
 - ii. **The offending parties will be named and detailed information of the infraction will be distributed to each Recreation Council in Carroll County and Carroll County Recreation and Parks with consideration to the surrounding counties.**

North Carroll Recreation Council
P.O. Box 546 Manchester Maryland 21102
www.NorthCarrollRec.org

ADA STATEMENT: Accessibility Notice: The Americans with Disabilities Act applies to the Carroll County Government and its programs, services, activities and facilities. If you have questions, suggestions, or complaints, please contact Jolene Sullivan, the Carroll County Government Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, at 410-386-3600.

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Carroll County Department of
Recreation and Parks
Carroll County Government
300 South Center Street
Westminster, Maryland 21157

April 20, 2016

RECREATION AND PARKS POLICY STATEMENT #16-01

To: RECREATION AND PARKS STAFF

Subject: SEVERE WEATHER POLICY

1. Purpose

To establish a procedure to promote the safety of program participants during occurrences of severe weather

2. Background

The Department of Recreation & Parks previously updated the policy regarding the removal of participants and spectators from athletic fields during occurrences of lightning and added building closures during inclement weather and warnings for additional severe weather including excessive heat and high winds. This policy supersedes and replaces the former Lightning Policy #10-1.

3. Action

The following policy is hereby established regarding the occurrence of severe weather during Department of Recreation & Parks and recreation council activities:

- A. **THUNDER & LIGHTNING:** Effectively immediately, once lightning is observed, thunder is heard, or CCPS lightning detection system is activated during outdoor recreation council activities, all athletic fields must be cleared for a period of 30 minutes. If lightning is observed (or thunder heard) again, the 30 minute period of cleared fields starts over. The CCPS lightning detection system will give an all clear, series of three beeps, when the event is over and it's clear to access the fields again.
- B. **SNOW:** When schools are closed or close early due to inclement weather, all recreation and parks activities for that day are cancelled. For weekend activities, if the snow emergency plan is in effect after 6 pm Friday or anytime Saturday, all Saturday activities are cancelled. If the snow emergency plan is in effect after 6 pm Saturday or anytime Sunday, all Sunday activities are cancelled. This includes activities that occur at school sites, nature centers, New Windsor Community Room, South Carroll Senior & Community Center and the Robert Moton Center. *In cases of extreme bad weather where additional time is necessary to provide safe access to schools or county facilities, it may become necessary to cancel activities until such time that safe access can be provided.*



Connecting people, parks and programs in support of a strong, healthy community and natural environment

C. WIND: When a high wind warning is issued by the National Weather Service (NWS), outdoor activities shall not operate within close proximity of trees, power lines and other potential hazards. The NWS defines a high wind warning as sustained wind speeds of 40 mph or greater lasting for 1 hour or longer or 58 mph or greater for any duration of time.

D. HEAT: Approximately 30 minutes prior to the start of the activity, temperature and heat index reading should be taken at the site or from www.weather.com or a comparable source. The following are recommended guidelines for coaches, program leaders and volunteers to follow with regards to Department sponsored youth activities:

Heat Index 80-89	Use caution; monitor athletes carefully for necessary action.
Heat Index 90-104	Use extreme caution; remove helmets and other equipment if not involved in contact.
Heat Index 105-129	Alter uniforms by removing items where feasible; practice time should be shortened with low intensity & limited conditioning.
Heat Index 130 & above	NO PRACTICE OR GAMES. ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE RESCHEDULED FOR EARLY/LATE IN DAY OR AN ALTERNATIVE DATE WHEN HEAT INDEX IS LOWER.

Some discretion is granted to the volunteers in making this decision as programs may be occurring at sites with abundant shade, water & frequent breezes.

In all cases, once the heat index rises above 105, programs should allow for frequent cooling breaks, reduced activity levels, appropriate uniform modifications, mandatory water breaks every 30 minutes (10 minutes in duration) and ice down towels to be available to players for cooling.

E. Enforcement of this policy will be delegated to the volunteer recreation councils when staff are not present at these activities

4. Effective Date

This policy statement is effective immediately and will remain in effect until canceled or superseded.



Jeff R. Degitz, Director
Department of Recreation & Parks