

Inclement Weather Procedures

- If a game is terminated for weather, the field is deemed unplayable by the referee or the site manager, or other reason the game cannot be played after the referee arrives at field the referee is entitled to full pay.
- WMYSA (West Michigan Youth Soccer Association) requires that when lightning is observed or thunder is heard by the referee during a game, the game must be suspended, and the playing field kept clear of participants until 30 minutes after the last thunder or lightning is noted or it must be terminated. Referees should attempt to restart the game within one hour of suspension. If the weather does not permit the suspended game will be terminated.
- If the game is delayed so long that it cannot be completed before the officials have to leave for another match the delayed match is terminated and rescheduled unless new officials can be found.
- If a game is terminated because of weather and one half of the game has been completed, the game will be considered complete and the score at the time of suspension will be recorded as the final result. If the game is terminated in the first half, it will be rescheduled and replayed. The referee should indicate on the game report exactly what happened.

If in doubt, please check wmysa.org to see if your game is being played or not.

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A severe weather warning is defined as either a Tornado Warning, Severe Thunderstorm Warning or High Wind Warning. **NOTE: Officials are not expected to travel to matches during any warnings.**

If a severe weather “warning” or “Advisory” as defined below exists in the venue’s area during game time or 2 hours prior to or 1 hour after the scheduled game time, the venue’s management or either team’s coach may reschedule the game to an alternative time and/or date without concern of forfeiture.

If referees are assigned to a match that falls under these conditions, they may also be excused from officiating. The venue management, coach or official that elects to cancel a game due to severe weather must contact WMYSA Administrator Responsible for scheduling and the opposing team to inform them of their decision prior to game time. If the referee is the one making the determination, they should contact WMYSA.

A High wind warning is issued when either sustained winds of 40 mph or higher exist for one hour or more or wind gusts are 58 mph or higher for any duration. Immediate shelter should be sought.

A Severe Thunderstorm Watch does not necessarily mean that severe weather is occurring, only that atmospheric conditions have created a significant risk for severe weather to occur.

A Severe Thunderstorm Warning is an alert issued when trained storm spotters or a Doppler weather radar indicate that a thunderstorm is producing or will soon produce dangerously large hail or high winds, capable of causing significant damage. Immediate shelter should be sought.

A Tornado Watch is issued when weather conditions are favorable for the development of severe thunderstorms called a Supercell capable of producing tornadoes. A tornado watch therefore implies that it is also a severe thunderstorm watch.

A Tornado Warning is defined as an alert issued by national weather forecasting agencies to warn the public that severe thunderstorms with tornadoes are imminent or occurring. Immediate shelter should be sought.

A Winter Weather Advisory is issued when conditions are such, we have one of the following: snow 3"-5" within a 12-hour period, sleet < 1/2", freezing rain with snow, sleet and blowing snow or ice accumulation <1/4"