



United Clubs League (UCL) - Inclement Weather Guidelines

Cancellations

- The home team/club is responsible for notifying all parties if fields are closed due to inclement weather.
- The home team must notify:
 - The league at ucl@msysa.org
 - The referee assignor at referee@msysa.org
 - The opposing team
- Whenever possible, cancellations should be communicated at least two (2) hours prior to kick-off to avoid being assessed referee fees.
- If a team has not received a cancellation notice, then the referee and all participants should assume the game will be played as scheduled.
- Referee On-Call Emergency Phone: **443-766-0610**

Weather Delays and Suspension of Play

If play is stopped due to severe or dangerous weather conditions:

- All players, coaches, referees, and spectators must move to a safe location away from the field until further notice.
- Teams should ensure they have reliable communication methods available to contact players, parents, and team staff in the event of a weather delay or suspension of play.
- The home team will make reasonable efforts to communicate updates to team contacts through available channels, including email, phone, and/or text message.
 - Updates may include information regarding whether matches will be resumed, cancelled, modified, or postponed.
- Only official communications from the referee on-site should be considered authoritative regarding a match status once at the field.
 - Teams, coaches, and spectators should rely on official information when determining whether play will resume or if the schedule has been cancelled or altered.

Lightning Policy (30-Minute Rule)

For the safety of all participants, the following lightning protocol will be enforced:

- If lightning is seen or thunder is heard, play must be immediately suspended.
- Players, coaches, referees, and spectators must move to a safe shelter or enclosed vehicle.
- Play may not resume until at least thirty (30) minutes have passed since the last observed lightning strike or thunder.
- Each additional lightning strike or thunder occurrence resets the 30-minute waiting period.
- The referee and/or league officials will determine when it is safe for play to resume.
- If weather conditions prevent the match from continuing within a reasonable timeframe, the match may be abandoned, cancelled, or rescheduled in accordance with UCL policies.
 - Matches that have reached half-time are considered to have been played and the match results will stand.

Rescheduling

- Games may be rescheduled only with agreement from both teams through GotSport chat communication.
- Once both teams agree, the Game Change Form must be submitted within GotSport to UCL for approval.
- After approval, UCL will update the official schedule with the new venue, date, and time.
- Once schedules are locked by the league, all changes must:
 - Be agreed upon in GotSport chat
 - Be submitted via the Game Change Form
 - Be submitted at least seven (7) days prior to the match for UCL approval.
- Referee fees will be assessed based on the age group for the additional match directly to the teams in GotSport.
 - Referee fees must be paid prior to the match.