

Weather & Cancellation Policy

The safety of our players, coaches, volunteers, and spectators is the primary concern of Lubbock Youth Softball. While we strive to play all scheduled games, we adhere to a "safety-first" philosophy regarding inclement weather.

1. Authority and Responsibility

- **Prior to First Pitch:** The League President (or designee, such as the UIC) holds the authority to cancel games due to weather or field conditions. Updates will be communicated via the LYS Facebook page and our text updates for those registered for that by 5:00 PM.
- **During Play:** Once the plate meeting has occurred, the **Plate Umpire** has the sole authority to suspend or cancel a game due to weather or field conditions.

2. Lightning & Severe Weather (Mandatory)

In the event of lightning or thunder, the following rules apply:

- **Immediate Suspension:** If lightning is within a 7–10 mile radius (the league does utilize a lightning tracker and meter onsite) **immediately suspended**.
- **Seek Shelter:** All players, coaches, and spectators must move to a safe, enclosed structure (e.g., vehicles or a substantial building). **Dugouts, sheds, and trees are not safe shelters.**
- **30-Minute Rule:** Play may not resume until 30 minutes have passed since the last sight of lightning or sound of thunder. If the 30-minute clock is reset by new activity, the game may eventually be called if time or light prevents completion.

3. Determining Playability

- **General Rule:** If there is no official notification of cancellation, teams should report to the field as scheduled.
- **Field Conditions:** Games will be cancelled if the field is deemed unsafe for play (e.g., standing water, saturated/muddy base paths, or slippery conditions that increase injury risk). Light rain does not constitute an automatic cancellation unless the field becomes unsafe.

4. Game Status (Completion Rules)

A game called due to weather is considered "Official" if:

- At least half of the official game times have been played/completed.
- If a game is suspended *before* it becomes official, it will be resumed from the exact point of suspension (same score, count, and base runners) at a later date, unless league rules dictate otherwise for specific age divisions.
- Games suspended that cannot be resumed due to time constraints may be declared a "no contest" or a regulation game, depending on the specific league bylaws.

5. Communication Protocol

- **Official Channels:** All official league-wide cancellations will be posted on Facebook and sent via text to those participants that are registered text recipients.
- **Assumption:** If you do not receive a notification via the official league channels, **assume the game is on**. Coaches are responsible for ensuring parents receive timely updates if a game is cancelled or suspended at the field.

