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THPFC Severe Weather & Field Conditions Policy

Applies To: *This policy applies to all THPFC players, parents/guardians, coaches, team officials, referees, volunteers, staff, convenors, administrators and spectators participating in or attending Club-sanctioned soccer activities. It applies to all THPFC outdoor games, practices, training sessions, tournaments, camps, festivals and related activities held on Club-permitted or Club-managed facilities.*

Toronto High Park FC – Severe Weather & Field Conditions Policy

General

Soccer is primarily an outdoor sport. Climatic conditions in our part of the globe are known to vary widely, at times are volatile and on rare occasions even dangerous. Games and practices are held rain or shine, unless the safety of players, team officials or spectators is likely to be compromised.

Game/Practice Cancellation

In general, all games and practices go ahead rain or shine. The only exception is in the event of the following:

- Imminent thunderstorms.
- Unsafe field conditions.
- Where use of the field is judged to be likely to damage the playing surface.
- Environment and Climate Change Canada issues a no travel advisory.
- The facility is closed by the permit office.

Imminent Thunderstorms

The safety of players, team officials and spectators is the primary concern in any weather event that occurs during all matches sanctioned by the Club.

Ultimately the referee has the final say over delaying or restarting a match due to weather. Waiting to stop play or not waiting to start play may result in a serious injury or loss of life. Referees are expected to act responsibly when dealing with such events during matches they are controlling.

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The Club acknowledges that many of the Club's house league games are under the control of young individuals, not yet having reached the age of majority. Club policy allows for the responsible consultation of adult team officials present and to provide assistance and guidance to the young referees.

Team practices/training sessions are under the control of the team officials present. In the event of a potential lightning strike during a practice, the team officials present are expected to exert their "best judgement" and to curtail, suspend or cancel a practice in line with the Club policy below.

<u>When lightning is detected, apply the 30/30 Rule</u>

When you see lightning, count the time until you hear thunder. If this time is thirty (30) seconds or less, seek proper shelter. Wait thirty (30) minutes or more after hearing the last thunder before leaving the shelter. If you cannot see the lightning, just hearing the thunder is a good back up rule.

For Swansea & High Park House League games specifically, the following procedures should be adhered to;

- Players should attend the game otherwise a default against a team could be declared.
- A game is delayed if prior to the first kick-off, the Referee, in consultation with the Convenor/Team Officials, decides the conditions are unsafe due to the chance of a lightning strike.
- A game is suspended at any time after the first kick-off if the Referee, in consultation with the Convenor/Team Officials, decides the conditions are unsafe due to the chance of a lightning strike.
- The length of a game suspension is the sole discretion of the Referee. However, a minimum period of about 15 to 30 minutes would seem reasonable.
- A game, once suspended, may only be resumed if the Referee, in consultation with the Convenor/Team Officials, decides the conditions are now safe and free of a chance of a lightning strike.
- A game, if suspended and subsequently resumed, will end no later than 5 minutes prior to the "kick-off" time of any subsequent games that day or evening.

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- A game is “canceled” if the Referee, in consultation with the Convenor/Team Officials, decides the conditions are unsafe due to the chance of a lightning strike and that the probability of safely resuming the game is unlikely.
- If a game is cancelled prior to the end of the first half, the game is considered rained out.
- If a game is cancelled after completion of the first half, then the score in place at the time of cancellation shall be recorded as the final game result if the game is in an age group that requires a score.

For recreational sessions, in recognition of the players ages and the lack of referees at these sessions the following policy items would be applicable;

- The Program Manager, should they feel it appropriate, may elect to cancel the session in advance and notify the players/parents via e-mail, powerup and social media. Parents are advised in the event of imminent dangerous weather to pay close attention to these electronic communication channels prior to leaving for the field.
- Similar to the House League policy above, the session can be either delayed, suspended or cancelled if in the opinion of the Program Manager or Team Officials present, that conditions are unsafe due to the chance of a lightning strike.
- A session, once delayed or suspended, may only be resumed if the Program Manager or, in their absence, Team Officials, decide the conditions are now safe and free of a chance of a lightning strike.

Unsafe Field Conditions

Unsafe field conditions are generally the result of standing water on the pitch. Standing water can be present as a puddle within areas devoid of grass/vegetation or as perched or suspended water within a grassed/vegetative area.

Either pose risks to players and referees as the footing may be prone to failure and ultimately result in falls and injury.

When field conditions warrant, the Club’s referees are expected to exercise their best judgement and close the use of that facility until such times as the conditions improve.

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Field Conditions

THPFC permits and in some locations assumes the maintenance of numerous outdoor facilities.

THPFC has a responsibility to the property owners to limit the use of these facilities when our activities are likely to cause damage to the field surfaces.

THPFC reserves the right to delay, postpone or cancel the use of any THPFC permitted facility if in the view of the Club, the use of that field is likely to cause damage to the playing surface.

Such right extends to all THPFC permitted facilities during the Club's permitted hours. It also extends to all activities, whether for practices/training sessions, house league games or games under the jurisdiction of various competitive leagues of which THPFC may participate within.

Extreme Heat

During times of extreme heat or humidity, the Club referees, in conjunction with the Team officials present are expected to include within the game time, extra time to be used to hydrate the players.

Such time shall be subtracted from the available game time generally between the defined half-time break.

Team Officials are expected to communicate the need for players to bring additional water to the field during these extreme heat events.

Extreme Cold

Sessions delivered outdoors should be canceled if the safety of our players and coaches can not be guaranteed or if;

Age	Temperature
0 to 12 years old	<-5 ℃
13 to Adult	<-10 ℃
OPDL	<-15 ℃

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Air Quality

During periods of poor air quality, including wildfire smoke or other environmental conditions that may affect participant safety, THPFC may delay, modify, postpone or cancel outdoor soccer activities.

THPFC will use the Government of Canada air quality information as the primary reference point when assessing air quality conditions.

Club staff, Program Managers, referees and team officials should also use their best judgement, with particular consideration given to the age of participants, session intensity, length of exposure, and any players or staff who may be more vulnerable due to respiratory or medical conditions.

Where air quality is deemed unsafe, activities will be reduced in intensity, moved indoors where possible, delayed, or cancelled.

THPFC will communicate any Club-wide cancellations or changes through the appropriate Club communication channels.

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