

ARROWHEAD YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

WEATHER GUIDELINES



LIGHTNING

Referees are instructed to stop play if they see lightning or if they hear threatening thunder. Players, coaches, and spectators will be asked to leave the field and move to their vehicles. Generally, referees will suspend the game and ask players and coaches to remain at the site until it is determined whether the game can be safely restarted. Referees will restart play if it appears that the lightning passed over the area, and if at least fifteen minutes have passed since the last appearance of lightning. Referees will immediately cancel the game if the weather is too hazardous for players and coaches to remain in vehicles at the site. Coaches should always inform the referee and remove their team from the field if they feel that the weather is hazardous.

For U6 and U8, the coaches oversee the cancellation of the game due to lightning or hazardous weather. Please be safe.

HEAT AND WATER BREAKS

Referees may impose water breaks, shorten, or suspend games due to dangerously high heat. Teams with an inadequate number of substitutes may request and receive a two-minute running time water break in each half. This request must be made before the start of the game. **For U6 and U8**, coaches can discuss and determine the need for water breaks prior to the beginning of the game. The following are recommended minimum guidelines when there is a possibility of dangerous high heat index:

Heat Index	Recommended Guidelines
Up to 89°	Normal Play
90° - 99°	Mandatory 2-minute water breaks per half with running time. Each half is shortened by 5 minutes.
100° - 105°	Mandatory 2-minute water breaks per half with running time. Each half is shortened by 10 minutes.
105°+	Suspend play.

AIR QUALITY

The following precautions must be followed to determine the activity level when there is a possibility that air quality is unsafe. Check local air quality levels at <https://www.airnow.gov>.

Air Quality Index	Recommended Guidelines
Green or Yellow	Games will be played as scheduled.
Orange	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups. For U6 and U8 teams , it is optional to play when the AQI is in the orange. Please contact your opponent to discuss before the start of the game. U10-U14 games will be played in most cases, but please watch the website for more information.
Red or Purple	Unhealthy to Very Unhealthy – games are cancelled by AYSA. Coaches work to reschedule the game following rescheduling procedures.

OTHER SAFETY ISSUES

Referees or local field coordinators may cancel games at the site if, in their opinion, field or weather conditions constitute a safety hazard or a hazard to long-term field conditions.

Games are considered complete if canceled after the first half of play has been completed.