Nebraska Sports Council Weather Policy

Purpose

The safety of all participants, coaches, officials, volunteers, spectators, and staff is the highest priority of the Nebraska Sports Council (NSC). Weather-related decisions will be made with participant safety as the primary consideration and may include delays, suspensions, modifications, relocations, or cancellations of competition.

Authority

The following individuals have authority to delay, suspend, modify, relocate, or cancel competition due to weather:

- NSC staff
- Sport Director
- Venue management
- Assigned officials/referees

An NSC staff member must be notified prior to making any weather-related operational decision. Once a weather-related decision has been made, it is considered final.

Lightning and Thunder

Suspension of Play

Competition shall be suspended immediately when:

- Lightning is observed.
- Thunder is heard.
- A lightning detection system has identified lightning activity within a hazardous radius of 6 to 10 miles, and radar data indicates that the storm's projected path poses a potential threat to the facility.
- Event officials determine conditions are unsafe.

Participants, coaches, officials, volunteers, and spectators must immediately proceed to a designated safe shelter.

Safe Shelter

Acceptable shelters include:

- Fully enclosed buildings with wiring and plumbing.
- Fully enclosed vehicles with windows closed.

The following are NOT considered safe shelters:

- Tents
- Dugouts
- Open shelters or pavilions

- Bleachers
- Golf carts
- Trees
- Open garages or storage buildings

Resumption of Play

Competition may resume only after:

- At least 30 minutes have passed since the last sound of thunder or sighting of lightning.
- Conditions are deemed safe by event officials.

Any subsequent thunder or lightning resets the 30-minute waiting period.

Event Modification

If weather conditions prevent timely completion of an event, NSC may:

- Delay competition
- Adjust schedules
- Shorten events
- Modify formats
- Relocate events
- Cancel events

When possible, all competitors will be provided an equal opportunity to compete.

Heat Policy

Because many Nebraska Sports Council events occur during July, heat-related illness prevention is critical.

Heat Index	**Action**
Below 95°F	Normal operations with hydration encouraged
95°F – 103°F	Increased hydration breaks and monitoring
104°F – 109°F	Schedule adjustments, additional breaks, reduced activity
Above 110°F	Delay, suspend, shorten, or cancel activity

Additional precautions may include:

- Additional water stations
- Shortened competition formats
- Modified start times
- Increased medical monitoring

Participants are encouraged to arrive hydrated and notify event staff if symptoms of heat illness occur.

Tornadoes and Severe Storms

Competition shall be suspended immediately upon:

- Tornado Warning affecting the event area
- Severe Thunderstorm Warning with significant threat
- Dangerous wind conditions
- Other hazardous conditions identified by emergency management officials

Participants and spectators shall move to designated shelter areas and remain there until an all-clear is issued.

Communication

Weather-related updates may be communicated through:

- NSC Director of Events
- Sport Director
- Event staff
- Venue personnel
- Email, text, website and social media updates

Participants are responsible for monitoring event communications during weather delays.

Refunds and Event Credits

Weather is an inherent risk of outdoor athletics. In the event of weather-related delays, modifications, shortened competitions, or cancellations:

- Entry fees are non-refundable.
- NSC reserves the right to determine whether credits, transfers, or partial refunds will be offered.
- Decisions will be made on an event-by-event and case-by-case basis.

Statement of Responsibility

The Nebraska Sports Council reserves the right to delay, suspend, modify, relocate, shorten, or cancel any event when weather or environmental conditions are deemed unsafe. All participants, coaches, officials, volunteers, and spectators are expected to comply immediately with directions from event staff and venue personnel.

Safety will always take precedence over competition.