



Adopted: May 2004

Updated: December 2015

POLICY No. 015:

WEATHER

1.0 Purpose

To ensure safety procedures are in place in the event of inclement weather.

2.0 Application

This policy applies to all FDSA coaches and officials, and to all FDSA-organized outdoor games and events, except for Fredericton-based NBSL games which are governed by Soccer NB rules.

3.0 Definitions

Not applicable.

4.0 Legal Authority

Section 11(g) of the FDSA Constitution

5.0 Goals / Principles

The safety of members, visitors and officials is of prime concern to the FDSA.

In the event of inclement weather, parents have the right to remove their child from the field, even when a game has not been abandoned.

6.0 Requirements / Standards

6.1 FDSA coaches and officials must be aware of the weather forecast prior to a game, and should understand that these forecasts change as conditions change. They should also be aware that non-severe thunderstorms do produce lightning.

6.2 The decision to abandon play shall be made by the game officials, except that where no official is present (e.g. in mini games or at practices), this decision shall be made by the coach(es).

6.3 Notwithstanding section 6.2 above, if thunder is heard, or lightning is seen, play in that game shall be abandoned and all participants shall be directed to seek appropriate shelter, such as: a vehicle (windows rolled up); a building; or low ground. Immediate medical help must be sought if any individual is struck by lightning. The game may be restarted after 30 minutes of no further thunder or lightning, and with no more than a one (1) hour delay. With respect to details regarding game score, please refer to Soccer NB policies.

7.0 Guidelines / Recommendations

- 7.1 In the event of hot weather, appropriate safety precautions should be taken such as ensuring children have sufficient water, shortening games or practices, taking extra breaks, use of wet sponges etc.
- 7.2 The decision of whether or not a child participates in a practice/game during extreme heat/humidity is at the discretion of the parent/guardian.

8.0 Extreme Heat Policy

During periods of extreme heat, intense physical activities can cause serious health problems for soccer players of all ages. Before all practices/games, all players should be well hydrated; players should drink water 30 minutes before practice and every 20 minutes for an hour after every practice and/or game. During periods of extreme heat, the FDSA will monitor the humidex and will post results on its website and Facebook page. Coaches, Managers and Team Officials shall abide by the following guidelines, but, if at any time a player exhibits signs of stress related to extreme heat, the player should be immediately removed from play, moved out of the sun and provided with water or sports drink.

<u>Humidex</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Action</u>
Up to 30	Green	Normal play
30 to 37	Yellow	Mandatory water breaks (5 min. duration) every 20 min.
37 to 40	Red	No games played; no intense physical exertion; mandatory water breaks (5 min) every 20 minutes; 1 hour total practice time
Over 40	Black	Suspend all play and practices

9.0 References

Environment Canada Website: http://www.weather.ec.gc.ca/forecast/city_e.html?yfc

Soccer NB Rules & Regulations: <http://www.soccernb.org/>

Fredericton City Recreation Department Hotline: (506) 460-2881 (game field closure information)