

Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools INCLEMENT WEATHER GUIDELINES

All Cancellations will be made by 2:00 PM

Cancellation of Events:

Softball Games

- Decisions on the postponement or cancellation of practices will rest solely with the school's Principal, Athletic Director, and Head Coach.
- Decisions on the postponement or cancellation of games will rest with the District Athletic Department. In the event of a cancellation, a decision will come from the District Athletic Department no later than 2:00 PM on game day.

Football Games

- Decisions on the postponement or cancellation of practices will rest solely with the school's Principal, Athletic Director, and Head Coach.
- Decisions on the postponement or cancellation of games will rest solely on the home team school's Principal, Athletic Director, and Head Coach.

Other Events

- Whenever there are extreme weather conditions in the area that could be hazardous to players or spectators (e.g. lightning, tornadoes, hail), consideration will be given to suspension or cancellation of games and practices.
- For all indoor events, the suspension or cancellation of games and practices shall be the responsibility of the home schools principal or designee.

Cancellation or postponement by School Personnel

- If an event is postponed or cancelled by the home school it is imperative that they initiate all negotiations for cancellation or postponement, and supervise the notification of all stakeholders.
- It is the home school's responsibility to contact: 1) opponent 2) district athletic office 3) officials. In case of postponement, the game or match will be played at the next available date including Saturdays.

Cancellation or postponement by District Athletics Office

- If an event is cancelled by the District Department of Athletics, all schools will be notified by 1) email and 2) phone call.

- The District Department of Athletics will notify officials of the cancellation or postponement.
- It is the responsibility of each school to notify all parents, coaches, players, and staff members.

Early Dismissal or School Closings Due to Extreme Weather Conditions

- In the event that school is closed due to inclement weather conditions, all after school activities on campus are automatically canceled.

Unpredictable Weather Conditions

- If an event has not been cancelled by the District Department of Athletics or the local school, coaches must have their team on the field, ready to play, despite weather conditions.
- A forfeit will be awarded if a team is not prepared to play within fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled match time.

At the Field

- The head referee is responsible for stopping or suspending play. The officials' jurisdiction extends through the end of the game including overtime. [This is according to National Federation of State High School Associations and Georgia High School Association (GHSA)].
- Once the officials "take the field", they have the authority to make the decision to play the game, cancel the game or postpone the game.
- A principal and/or designee has the authority to remove his/her team from the field anytime regardless of the decision of the officials. It is important to note however, that this may result in a forfeit for the team.

Away Contests

- The ultimate responsibility for the safety and well-being of the team rests with the Head coach.

In case of thunder and/or lightning, please adhere to the following guidelines.

LIGHTNING GUIDELINES

1. At the first sign of lightning or sound of thunder, all individuals will leave the athletic field and seek safe shelter.

2. Play will not resume until all lightning and thunder activity has stopped in the area for at least 30 minutes. The sun may come out during the waiting period, but do not compromise the 30 minute waiting period.
3. If an activity has been stopped due to weather conditions, the total waiting period will not exceed two (2) hour. If the 30-minute waiting period for lightning or thunder carries the total waiting period past two (2) hour, the game should be canceled and rescheduled if possible.
4. Safe Shelter is defined as: Any sturdy building normally occupied or frequently used by people. A shack, metal shed, or gazebo is not considered a safe shelter. In the absence of a sturdy building, any hard metal roof car with the windows rolled up can provide safety. Do not take shelter under trees or other tall, lone objects.
5. If an activity (game or practice) has been stopped due to lightning, the athletic trainer/coach/athletic director should provide immediate instructions to the players, spectators, and any other personnel present as to where to seek safe shelter and when it is safe to resume the activity.

Any individual who feels he or she is in danger of any lightning activity has the right to leave the field or event site to seek safe shelter.

REMINDERS

School Closings Prior to School Commencing

- ▶ No practices or games each day that school is out. No meetings either.

Before a Game

- ▶ Report to field ready to play, or a forfeit will occur.

After Practices or Games have Started

- ▶ Any principal or coach may cancel when individual situations warrant such. Always get athletes, coaches, fans, etc... to safety immediately during hazardous conditions.

During Holiday Vacations

- ▶ Principal and coach use best judgment.