



Lightning & Inclement Weather Policy

March 29, 2023

Lightning & Thunderstorms

In the event of thunder and/or lightning, North Toronto Soccer adheres to Canada Soccer's Lightning Safety/Severe Weather Policy. In the event of thunder *or* lightning, games or training sessions will be immediately halted. All parties are to quickly leave the field and seek shelter in a safe location. Players and coaches are not to return to the field - and the game will not be resumed - until 30 minutes after the last thunder or lightning.

The decision to start (or not start) and continue (or not continue) a game or training session will be made at the field. These decisions are the responsibility of the most senior technical staff present at the field, and such decisions are final. In the case that a technical staff member is not present, the decision will rest with the match official/referee.

For official league games involving other Clubs the decision rests entirely with the match official/referee.

Field Closures

When weather or field conditions are an issue, games will sometimes be cancelled ahead of time at some or all fields. Such announcements will be posted on our website & social media pages, no later than 90 minutes ahead of the scheduled start time.

North Toronto Soccer maintains its programs by obtaining permits for a variety of fields. The owners of these fields have differing policies on when fields may not be used, but generally, if there has been significant rainfall that leaves standing water on the field, creates unsafe conditions for players or increases the likelihood of significant damage to the field, games and training sessions may be cancelled.

Such decisions will be made by the most senior technical staff present. In the case that a technical staff member is not present, the decision will rest with the match official/referee.

Abandoned Games

For North Toronto Soccer Recreational Program, any game that is cancelled before reaching half-time (or the halfway mark) will not be rescheduled (due to limited field availability), no result will be recorded and the game will be excluded from the standings. Any game that has reached or passed half-time (or the halfway mark) and is subsequently abandoned due to weather or field conditions, the official score shall be recorded as the score at the time the game was abandoned.

For North Toronto Soccer official league & cup games against other Clubs, the rules of the competition will determine how abandoned games are handled.

North Toronto Recreational Program - Playoffs

In the case of inclement weather or unsuitable field conditions during a playoff tournament, games may be delayed or rescheduled for later in the tournament. However, if this is not possible due to tight scheduling and limited field availability, any game that is suspended or abandoned without reaching half-time (or the halfway mark) will be recorded as a 1-0 win for the team with the higher ranking during the regular season. If a game that has reached half-time or the halfway mark has a tied score at the time the match is suspended, and rescheduling is not possible, the teams may proceed directly to a penalty shootout to determine the winner, at the discretion of the Club. If the shootout cannot be conducted, the team with the higher regular season ranking will be considered the winner.