

CYA Soccer Field Policies

1. Inclement Weather

It is our policy to hold games and practices whenever it is safely possible to do so. Weather related situations cause a great deal of inconvenience but this is a temporary scenario as opposed to the alternative. There is no reasonable justification for jeopardizing the safety of our children. For the safety of the players and spectators, activities will be cancelled for the following weather-related reasons:

- a. **Thunder and Lightning:** In the event of lightning/thunder, all activities will be halted immediately. If you are practicing, the practice is cancelled. If you are playing a game, the game is cancelled/postponed. CYA is committed to providing our kids with a safe environment. When a Thunderstorm is brewing and Lightning has been spotted, it is imperative that our coaches take it upon themselves to play it safe and clear the field right away. That includes getting children out of the parking lot and into cars.
- b. **National Weather Service Severe Weather Warnings:** All activities will be cancelled/postponed during an active warning for our area from the National Weather Service for severe weather (Tornados, Severe Thunderstorms, Hurricanes, etc.).
- c. **Other Dangerous Weather Conditions:** In the event there are weather conditions, such as hail, that may present a danger to players and spectators, all activities will be cancelled or postponed while the dangerous weather conditions are present.

2. Dangerous Field Conditions:

If the fields are in a condition that presents a dangerous playing environment for players or where play may cause significant damage to the fields, practices/games will be cancelled or postponed for that day. This may occur on days of nice weather if rain has occurred on prior days.

- a. Teams may not practice when it is raining or when fields are wet.
 - i. Fairfax County Department of Community and Recreation Services controls County fields and directs which fields will be open or closed on a given day.
 - ii. CYA will update the Field Status portion of the website and/or update the Field Status Phone Line by 4:00 when fields will be closed.
- b. According to county guidelines, fields shall be closed when the following conditions exist:
 - i. There is standing water present on the pitch.

- ii. There is standing water present in the infield mix areas that cannot be removed without causing damage to the field.
- iii. There are muddy conditions present that will not dry by the start of the game.
- iv. While walking on the field, water can be seen or heard with any footstep.
- v. While walking on pitch, any impression of your footprint is left in the soil surface.
- vi. While walking on a bare area, an impression of more than a ¼” deep is left by a footprint.



Examples of Fields that have been closed due to poor conditions. Picture 1 shows standing water in the Penalty Box. Picture 2 shows standing water in corner and picture 3 shows muddy conditions that will not be dried before game time. Note that these pictures were taken two days after a steady rain and the field was still unsafe for play.

- c. Fairfax County Field Closure Signs: Field closed signs take precedence over the website and/or hotlines. For example, if fields are shown as open on the website and the sign on the field indicates that the field is closed to play, the field is closed. However, the opposite is not true. If the website or hotline states that a field is closed and the sign states that it is open, the field is closed.



Example of a County Open Sign



Example of a County Closed Sign

- d. The decision to open or close a field is made by either Fairfax County or CYA. Individual Coaches or Managers may not make this decision and must abide by the county and/or leagues decision. Should you choose to practice/play when

fields are closed, you are subject to the sanctions as outlined below, are trespassing either on County property and/or private property and are subject to misdemeanor prosecution.

- e. Foreign substances such as Mulch, Kitty Litter, Peat Moss, Sand, etc. will not be used by CYA to attempt to improve field conditions.

3. Goals

All goals must be anchored to the ground. Acceptable anchors for goals that are not permanently installed include sand bags, stakes, and hooks. Net stakes will never be used to anchor a goal to the ground. Unanchored goals pose a serious safety risk that can cause injury and/or death to players on the field.

- a. At the beginning of each season, goals will be anchored. If a goal is found not to be anchored, report it immediately to your division coordinator.
- b. Do not use the goals and field unless the goals are anchored. Each coach shall inspect the goals prior to their practice/game to ensure that the goals are safe.
- c. Bantam Pop Up Goals (PUGs) must be anchored with spikes or a counter-weight on the back of the goal. Blown over PUGs present a hazard to the younger players.
- d. Players are not allowed to play on the goal or the nets. The coach shall instruct players at the beginning of the season that they must stay off the goals. Coaches and parents shall remind players to stay off the goals if players are hanging on the goals or nets.
- e. Other than PUGs, goals shall NEVER be moved by Chantilly Youth Association coaches, parents, or participants unless permission has been given by a soccer board member. If a goal has been found to be moved, report it immediately and leave it where it is.

4. Word Of Grace Practice Allocations

Travel teams may be allocated specific practice and/or game time at the Word Of Grace Christian Athletic Center (Old Redskins Park). This facility is private and requires payment to use the field space.

- a. Each team will practice only on their designated field at their designated time.
- b. Teams will NOT begin their practice early or end their practice late.
- c. Teams will NOT take the field or any part of the field until their designated time.

This includes:

- i. Warm-up drills on a corner of the field,
 - ii. Jogging on the field
 - iii. Warming-up so close to the field that it causes a disruption for the team(s) practicing
 - iv. Errant balls kicked onto the field.
- d. If you are given ½ of the field, your practice may NOT extend beyond the mid-field line.

- e. No coach, parent, player or spectator will enter the fields prior to 11:45 on Sundays.
- f. No spectators or chairs are allowed on the artificial turf. All spectators and chairs must remain in the gravelly area between the fields.

5. Trash Pickup

All Chantilly Youth Association Teams are responsible for picking up all trash on or around the field at the conclusion of their game or practice regardless of whether the trash was there when they first took the field.

6. Field Policy Violation Sanctions

- a. **Inclement Weather Policy Violations** - If a coach or assistant coach violates the Inclement Weather Policy, immediate expulsion from the program shall be the penalty. Weather hazards are not to be taken lightly and CYA Soccer will not tolerate any violations
- b. **Dangerous Field Conditions** - If a coach or assistant violates any of the Dangerous Field Conditions, as stated above, CYA Soccer will take appropriate action including suspension of practice privileges, fines (for Travel Teams), and program expulsion. Any fine levied on CYA by Fairfax County will be passed on to the offending parties.
- c. **Goals** - If a coach fails to inspect goals, moves goals without permission or fails to report issues with the goals, CYA Soccer will take appropriate action including suspension of practice privileges, fines (for Travel Teams), and program expulsion.
- d. **Word of Grace** – If a coach or team violates the Word of Grace rules, the following sanctions are in effect:
 - i. First Violation – a *Team* fine equivalent to the amount necessary to reserve the slot at Word of Grace (currently \$150 without lights for 1 ½ hours). Should this fine not be paid, all remaining practice slots at Word of Grace will be forfeit.
 - ii. Second Violation –loss of the next two practice slots at Word of Grace.
 - iii. Third Violation – loss of the remaining practice slots at Word of Grace and a letter of censure.
 - iv. Fourth Violation – program expulsion
- e. **Trash Pickup** - If a team fails to pickup field trash, CYA Soccer will take appropriate action including suspension of practice privileges, fines (for Travel Teams), and program expulsion