



Kingston Clippers Soccer Club  
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## Cancelation and Inclement Weather Policy

### Cancellation of Scheduled Events

Soccer is a year round sport and there are many occasions where activities are affected by inclement weather. The Kingston Clippers will **not** cancel a scheduled event as long the facility being rented for the activity remains open. Of course, club members are to use their discretion to determine if they can attend safely.

### Field Closures

The Kingston Clippers Soccer Club rents all of its fields from the City of Kingston and Queen's University and is subject to the field closure policies of these organizations. Grass fields may be closed in the event of heavy rainfall or other field related issues, sometimes with short notice. Check the [City of Kingston Sports Field Closure Website](#) for up-to-date information about field closures. We will strive to ensure the Clippers' Facebook page and Twitter account have current information about field closures but this cannot be guaranteed. If the City of Kingston website indicates that grass fields are closed, games and practices are automatically cancelled.

Even if the fields have not been closed by the City or Queens, inclement weather may still impact the decision to start (or not start) and continue (or not continue) a game or training session. Activities should not be started or should be stopped for lightning (see below) or if the grass fields are so wet that continuing to play will seriously damage the field. The general "rule of thumb" to determine if a field is too wet to use is:

- If there is standing water on parts of the field and/or;
- The field is soggy (if your feet "sink" into the field and it is "squishy")

The decision to cancel a game in the event of inclement weather is the responsibility of the most senior referee present at the field, and such decisions are final. For games that do not have a referee or at team training sessions, the decision of removing a team or individuals from the field is on the coach supervising the activity. Referees and coaches are encouraged to err on the side of caution in all situations.

Regardless of the decisions made by the renting organization, the referee or the coach as to playing in inclement weather, all participants (and/or their parents or guardians) have the right to abandon any game or practice, without fear of repercussion or penalty, to seek a safe location if they feel they are in danger from weather conditions or lightning.

## Lightning /Severe Weather Policy

The following quote is from the Canadian Soccer Association Lightning Safety/Severe Weather Policy:

“The safety of players, coaches, management and spectators is the primary concern in any weather event that occurs during all matches sanctioned by Canada Soccer. Ultimately, the referee has the final say over delaying or restarting a match due to weather. Waiting to stop play or not waiting to start play may result in a serious injury or loss of life. Referees are expected to act responsibly when dealing with such events during matches they are controlling. If you can hear thunder, you can get hit by lightning. **As soon as you hear thunder, quickly get to a safe location.** More people are struck before and after a thunderstorm than during one. **Stay inside for 30 minutes after the last rumble of thunder**

[See the entire Canadian Soccer Association Lightning Safety/Severe Weather Policy document.](#)

## Lightning Safety

The Kingston Clippers Soccer Club advocates the following recommendations on lightning safety for all outdoor activities:

1. Err on the side of caution and do not be influenced by other coaches or parents to continue play in unsafe circumstances.
2. Appoint someone— assistant coach, parent, linesman etc. to watch for lightning and listen for thunder.
3. Stay away from tall or individual trees, lone objects (e.g., light or flag poles), metal objects (e.g., metal fences or bleachers), standing pools of water, and open fields. Avoid being the tallest object in a field. Do not take shelter under a single tall tree.
4. If there is no safe shelter within a reasonable distance, crouch in a thick grove of small trees surrounded by taller trees or in a dry ditch. Crouching with only your feet touching the ground and keeping your feet close together, wrap your arms around your knees and lower your head to minimize your body's surface area. Do not lie flat!
5. If you feel your hair stand on end or your skin tingle or hear crackling noises, immediately crouch (as in No. 3) to minimize your body surface area.
6. Allow 30 minutes to pass after the last sound of thunder before resuming any activity.
7. Lightning strike victims do not carry an electrical charge. CPR is safe for the responder and has been shown to be effective in reviving lightning strike victims.
8. Pay much more attention to the lightning threat than to the rain. It need not be raining for lightning to strike.