



NCWLO Safe Working Conditions Policy

Version	Date	Created By	Key Differences
1	4/2020	Laura Jennings, Board Director, Assignor.	Initial draft, Board approved 2020
2	1/4/2024	Laura Jennings, Board Director, Assignor	Revised customer names, Board approved 2024

The safe working conditions policy applies to all games assigned by the NCWLO.

Assignors Responsibilities:

NCWLO's Assignors shall monitor weather, air quality, field conditions, natural disasters and any other public health issue that could impact playing conditions. For tournaments assignors shall begin to monitor conditions no later than 14 days prior to the first scheduled game. For regular season games assignors shall begin monitoring 72 hours before the first game that season and continue to monitor for the duration of the season. the event or first scheduled game and Assignors will keep officials abreast of cancellations and any other special circumstances via ArbiterSports. Assignors shall keep tournament operators or the home team contact informed of the conditions via email and phone calls.

Officials Responsibilities:

Officials are responsible for checking their ArbiterSports game assignment prior to departure for the assigned games and should also check game venue weather conditions to be properly prepared.

Although not required, the NCWLO assignors appreciate officials, who have elected to turn back games due to safety concerns, securing their own replacement when reasonably possible to do so. They should communicate the replacement's contact information to the assignor so that the replacement can be given access to the arbiter game information. Officials who are replacing another official should not work the game until they are added to the game in arbiter. Failure to follow these protocols could delay payment.

AIR QUALITY:

- If the Air Quality Index (AQI) is predicted by a local air agency to be 101-150 AQI (Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups) on game day:
 - Officials may elect to turn back games within 48 hours of the event without penalty.
 - Assignors shall inform the tournament operator or home team contact for regular season games of the increased risk level for some sensitive groups. Assignors may contact officials from out of the area to help cover turned back games.
 - If the Air Quality Index (AQI) is predicted by a local air agency to be 151 or above the game will be canceled and officials should be informed before they leave for the game.

- Assignors shall inform the tournament operator or home team contact for regular season games of the identified risk to officials and that the games shall not be officiated by NCWLO officials till conditions improve to an identified safe level.
- Should the games already be in progress the NCWLO assignor shall inform the tournament operator or home team contact and the games will be stopped during the next stoppage of play. Play may resume according to the NFHS rules once conditions improve to a safe level identified in this policy.

Air Quality Index Levels of Health Concern	Numerical Value	Meaning
Good	0 to 50	Air quality is considered satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.
Moderate	51 to 100	Air quality is acceptable; however, for some pollutants there may be a moderate health concern for a very small number of people who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101 to 150	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is not likely to be affected.
Unhealthy	151 to 200	Everyone may begin to experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.
Very Unhealthy	201 to 300	Health alert: everyone may experience more serious health effects.
Hazardous	301 to 500	Health warnings of emergency conditions. The entire population is more likely to be affected.

(the above graphic is from <https://www.airnow.gov/>)

LIGHTNING AND THUNDER:

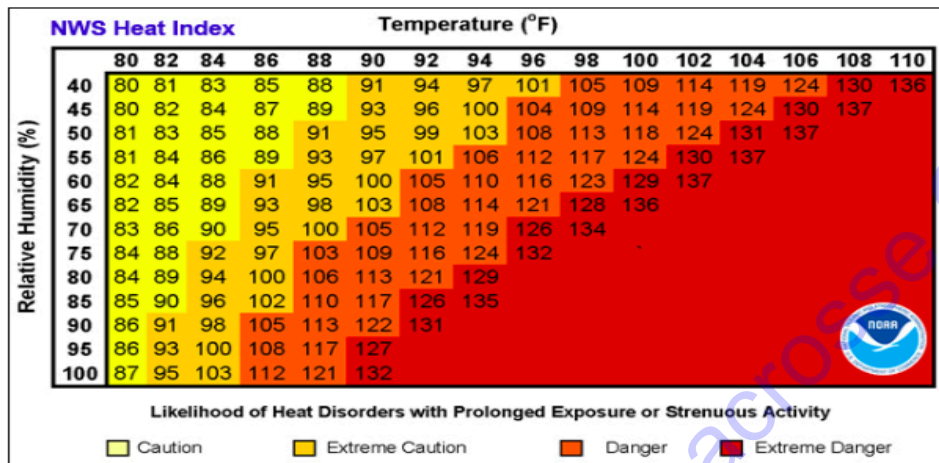
- Officials follow current season NFHS rule book "Guidelines On Handling Practices And Contests During Lightning Or Thunder Disturbances"
 - Officials may not turn back games, and must report to the game

FIELD CONDITIONS:

- Unsafe field conditions must be reported to the following:
 - Tournaments:
 - Head Official or Assignor onsite
 - Tournament Operator/Main Tent Medical Staff
 - Regular Season Games:
 - Home/Host team head coach or onsite Athletic Director
- For all games officials must submit via email notes of unsafe conditions to the assignor within 24 hours of the game for record keeping purposes.

EXCESSIVE HEAT:

- When the heat index is predicted to be between 90-104 F degrees
 - Officials may elect to turn back *within 48 hours of the event* without penalty.
 - Assignor to assign games with breaks in between assignments whenever possible.
 - Assignors shall make every effort to limit officials to no more than 4 games per day when possible.



ILLNESS:

- As Officials, we are to be physically and mentally prepared for the assigned game.
 - If you have had a fever, severe cough/congestion or other illness that prevents full attention to a game, 48 hours prior to the assigned game:
 - Officials may elect to turn back games *within 48 hours of the event* without penalty.
 - If an official develops a fever, severe cough/congestion or other illness that prevents full attention to a game prior to the assigned game, contact the assignor *immediately*.

PUBLIC HEALTH /HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS:

- If at any time, public health officials in NCWLO’s service area have issued health safety precautions, NCWLO will issue guidelines to follow for assigned games as reported by <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/> & <https://www.cdc.gov/> .
 - Officials may elect to turn back games *within 48 hours of the event* without penalty.
 - Officials showing any symptoms, have difficulty breathing or any other issue that would prevent them from continuing to officiate, should immediately contact the onsite athletic trainer, and then their health care provider and finally the assignor. *Any method of contact is allowed as long as receipt is confirmed (text, phone call, email).*