

**OAKLAND ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION
SEVERE WEATHER POLICY
(Revised 2009)**

Responsibility

Schools should make every attempt to adhere to the league schedule of contests. The O.A.A. depends on the integrity of the host school to use their best judgment in determining playability based on the particular sport and site conditions. Local district policy supersedes league policy and M.H.S.A.A. rules will prevail.

Each sport subcommittee will develop a policy for the make-up of canceled divisional contests.

In the event of a severe weather warning or tornado watch/warning prior to the departure of athletic teams, all contests will be postponed to another day.

Administrators of opposing schools involved will contact one another when they are aware of a severe weather warning or a tornado watch/warning in their geographic areas.

TORNADO POLICY**IF THERE IS A WATCH OR WARNING**

Watch or warning issued at least three hours prior to the event:

If the local district policy closes the tournament facility, all participating teams must be called and informed of postponement with information pertaining to next playing date and time included in the call.

If the host district policy does not close the facility, all participating schools who have not called the host must be called to be sure all who are scheduled to play will be present. (The participating school local policy must prevail).

If one team of a dual type competition (i.e. Baseball Tournament) cannot be present by their policy, no contest shall be held. The competition for that day/night must be rescheduled on the next possible day.

If the competition is multiple team type (i.e. Track, Tennis), the meet shall be conducted as long as a reasonable number of teams (60 percent) can be present.

Watch or warning less than three hours before event:

If the competing teams are enroute, no decision shall be made until both teams in bracket have arrived or contact has been made, unless local policy forbids use of facility once the watch or warning has been issued.

If competing teams arrive, are on the premises, and local policy permits, play the contest when and if time permits.

If it is not possible that date, reschedule for next playable date, not including Sunday. Local policy shall always prevail.

Watch or warning first issued during contest:

Suspend play.

Take necessary steps and precautions as directed by local policy.

Resume play at the point of suspension as soon as permitted. If not that day/night, then reschedule for the next possible date.

Lightning

Lightning necessitates that contests be suspended, NO EXCEPTIONS. The host school shall attempt to arrange for the safety of all participants and spectators by moving them to appropriate indoor shelter. When lightning is observed and the contest suspended, contestants shall not return to the playing field until lightning has been absent from the local sky for 30 minutes.

Field Conditions

Rain or snow may make the field unplayable by creating a safety hazard.

Procedures for Cancellations

Cancellations due to site conditions and weather, (other than tornado and storm watches/warnings), must be made prior to 2:00 p.m. on the date of the contest. Schools involved should remind the students to notify their parents of the cancellation.

If weather or site conditions force cancellations of divisional play, those contests must be made up according to the make-up procedure established by the committee for that particular sport. Schools failing to adhere to the make-up policy of the particular sport will forfeit those contests.

For O.A.A. divisional tournaments that involve releasing students from school, the meet manager must determine, before the students leave for the tournament on the day of the meet, if it will be held. If the tournament has begun and cancellation occurs, the tournament will be finished on the next playable date during after-school hours or on the next playable date that does not require students to be released from school.

For all other divisional meets, an alternative make-up date must be built into the schedule by the sport committee. This implies that schools will not schedule contests on those make-up dates.

GAME SUSPENSION POLICIES

(Inclement Weather Affecting Outdoor Venues)

On threatening days, game management should consult with contest officials about steps to be followed if conditions worsen.

When suspending an outdoor contest, officials and game management shall follow these policies.

When lightning is observed or thunder is heard, the contest must be suspended. The occurrence of lightning or thunder is not subject to interpretation or discussion – lightning is lightning; thunder is thunder.

Severe weather in the form of rain or snow may make the field unplayable.

When a contest is suspended, the home school administration shall attempt to arrange for the security of all participants.

Contestants and support personnel shall be moved to appropriate indoor facilities.

When lightning is observed or thunder is heard and the contest is suspended, contestants shall not return to the playing field until lightning has been absent from the local sky and thunder has not been heard for 30 minutes.

Spectators shall be advised of the action being taken to seek shelter. (Some hosts may be able to offer shelter to spectators but are not required to do so.)

In considering resumption of competition, the following steps shall be followed.

Delays for contests scheduled prior to 3 p.m. or later must not exceed one and one half hour. Delays on nights not followed by school for all the competing teams may be longer by mutual agreement of participating schools. A postponed contest shall be rescheduled on a date/time mutually agreed to by the schools involved.

A decision to resume the contest within the time frame must be made by the officials who shall consult the home team administration and visiting school administration present at the contest.

The home school is responsible for facilities and will be given priority consideration in the final decision if there is no consensus among the three parties.

The final decision shall consider liability and conditions of facilities as well as future schedules; need to play the contest and finally the quality of all other options.