

WWCFL Inclement Weather and Smoke Policy

As of April 2025

Regular Season

- a. The officials may delay a regular season game in progress at their discretion for up to an hour (inclusive) for thunderstorms, heavy rains, an Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) of 7 or higher, etc.
- b. If a regular season game in progress is cancelled due to inclement weather or an AQHI of 7 or higher by the officials, the scoring will be as follows:
 - i. If less than two full quarters have been played, it will result in a game "not played" (e.g. game not counted as a win, loss, or tie). Therefore, the season record is based only on games where at least two full quarters have been played.
 - ii. If two full quarters or more have been played, the score will stand as of the time of cancellation.
- c. If a regular season game cannot even be started due to inclement weather, smoke or air quality, it will result in a game "not played" (e.g. game not counted as a win, loss, or tie). Therefore, the season record is based only on games where at least two full quarters have been played.
- d. As stated in the WWCFL Bylaws, re-scheduling or cancellation of postponed games will be reviewed by the WWCFL Commissioner and recommendations will be made to the Board for final decision to be voted upon.

Playoffs

- a. The officials may suspend/delay a playoff game in progress at their discretion for up to two hours (inclusive) for thunderstorms, heavy rains, an Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) of 7 or higher, etc.
- b. If, following the two-hour delay, a playoff game cannot be resumed, the following will occur:
 - i. If the game has reached at least halftime prior to cancellation and one team is leading, the team in the lead will be awarded the win and advance in the playoffs or win the championship.
 - ii. If the game has reached at least halftime prior to cancellation and the two teams are tied, the game will resume the next day (Sunday) from the point where the game was suspended and will be played until conclusion.

iii. If the game has not reached halftime, regardless of the score, the game will resume the next day (Sunday) from the point where the game was suspended and will be played until conclusion.

Determining air quality

An Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) reading of 7 or higher at the start of the game or during the game, will delay the game. The index is updated hourly at the top of the hour.

https://weather.gc.ca/airquality/pages/index_e.html

Thunder and Lightning

For the safety of the players, coaches, officials and spectators – a football game shall be suspended and all individuals shall go inside a building when there is 30 seconds or less between the lightning and the thunder.

If the lightning/thunder is present during a game, the host team shall direct spectators to leave the stands and/or football field immediately and seek shelter inside a building or in their vehicles.

Play will not resume until at least 30 minutes after the last thunder or lightning. If weather clears completely (in the instance of a flash storm), a joint decision by the head coaches of both teams and the head official may allow play to resume sooner.

Travel to games

As weather can change quickly, all teams shall make an effort to travel to their games no matter what the weather is showing for game time at the time of a team's travel.

When air quality is a concern, a decision for a game to be cancelled prior to travel may be made by the majority of a three-person committee. The committee will be made up of the host team head coach or general manager, the visiting team head coach or general manager and a member of the WWCFL Executive.

Air quality may be deemed a concern prior to travel if it meets any of the following criteria:

1. An active fire is within 100 kilometers of the game location and the air quality at the game location is 7 or higher at the time of travel, or;
2. The air quality at the game location has not dipped below 7 in the 12 hours prior to time of travel.

