

SECTION	Football
POLICY	Bad Weather Procedure
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1. Purpose

The purpose of this guidance is to set out the steps that should be taken in extreme weather to protect the safety of participants in grassroots football.

This document does not purport to provide guidance on thunderstorm safety outside the context of grassroots football. When assessing whether weather is unsafe and/or what to do, participants should always refer to the latest Met Office guidance: see <https://weather.metoffice.gov.uk/warnings-and-advice/seasonal-advice/health-wellbeing/stay-safe-in-thunder-and-lightning>

2. Scope

This document applies to all participants at Club Doncaster Sports Village Stadium in the respect to any relevant outdoor activity, including training and matches.

3. Planning

It is the responsibility of all participants to regularly check weather forecasts prior to a match and/or training.

It is the primary responsibility of the stadium management team (Operations Manager and Head of Safety) to consider whether outdoor activity should go ahead.

The home team should consider what their next steps are (postpone, abandon, move inside, et al.).

4. When to postpone, cancel or abandon

Where it is considered likely that the weather will make an event unsafe (e.g. through thunder, lightning or extreme winds and rain), the activity should be postponed and/or cancelled.

If the weather becomes unsafe after an activity has begun, the activity should be postponed and/or abandoned and all participants should seek shelter (e.g. in a safe indoor location) until the weather has become safe.

Weather conditions must be considered when participants are leaving an activity. Where possible, decisions to postpone or cancel should be taken at the earliest opportunity so as to limit the impact on participants.

Any decision to postpone, cancel or abandon should be taken with the safety of participants being the top priority.

5. Consequences of postponement, cancellation and/or abandonment

In the event that a fixture is cancelled or abandoned due to a thunderstorm, the consequences of this shall be dealt with in accordance with the applicable competition rules.

In the event that a fixture or other activity is postponed and resumes upon the weather becoming safe, the match official and/or person with overall responsibility to organise and run the event should assess the safety of the pitch, as debris or rain may mean it is unplayable.

6. Emergency

If someone is hit by lightning, call emergency services/999.

Before approaching to help, please check that there is no further danger to yourself or the casualty.

It is safe to touch someone who has been struck by lightning and provide them with First Aid.

You may need to move them to a safe area out of the storm if lightning strikes is still a risk.

Check to see if there are signs of life as soon as possible and if the person is not breathing normally, start cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), apply an automated external defibrillator as soon as possible and continue until help arrives.

7. Disclaimer

This document does not purport to provide advice on health and safety issues and The FA accepts no liability in this regard.

Participants should at all times follow the applicable government guidance (see link above) to ensure their safety in the event of a thunderstorm.