



## Sports Weather Policy

### 1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish a clear, consistent, and safety-driven approach for managing Rome-Floyd Parks and Recreation athletic activities during adverse weather conditions. The department's priorities are **participant safety, staff safety, and facility protection**—in that order.

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### 2. Decision-Making Authority

Rome-Floyd Parks and Recreation (RFPRA) maintains **full and final authority** to delay, suspend, relocate, or cancel any practice, game, or event due to weather-related conditions.

Weather decisions will be based on:

- Current and forecasted conditions
- Guidance from the National Weather Service
- Field and facility conditions
- Overall participant and staff safety

Decisions made by RFPRA staff are final and are not subject to override by coaches, parents, or spectators.

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### 3. Lightning & Thunder Policy

- At the first sound of thunder, staff will begin monitoring the lightning detector. The official weather app of GRPA is WeatherBug, this will be used by RFPRA staff.
- At the **first sight of lightning**, or when lightning is detected within **8-miles** of the location, all outdoor activities will be **immediately suspended**.
- All participants, coaches, officials, and spectators must clear playing areas and seek shelter in a **substantial building or fully enclosed vehicle**.
- Activities may not resume until **30 minutes** have passed since the last observed thunder or lightning, or until lightning is **no longer detected within 8-miles** of specific location.

Each new lightning occurrence restarts the 30-minute delay. Nature does not negotiate.

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### 4. Rain & Field Conditions

Rain alone does not automatically cancel activities. However, RFPRA may delay or cancel activities when:

- Fields are unsafe or unplayable
- Standing water is present
- Conditions increase the risk of injury
- Continued use may damage fields or facilities

- Projected radar forecast does not show it possible to start or complete the games of that night.
  - If games are started and the weather moves in and causes any of the above scenarios, games will be suspended till future date(s).

If field conditions pose a safety risk or long-term damage concern, activities will be suspended or canceled — period.

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## 5. Extreme Heat

Rome-Floyd Parks and Recreation may modify, delay, or suspend activities when heat and humidity create unsafe conditions. Extreme heat is identified as 105°F

Possible adjustments include:

- Increased and mandatory water breaks
- Reduced practice or game duration
- Removal of protective equipment when appropriate
- Schedule modifications or cancellations
- RFPRA will follow the **GHS A wet-bulb** guidelines for all spring and summer sports.
  - All teams and organizations must follow the wet-bulb guidelines and abide by them when notified by RFPRA staff members.
    - ***This includes but is not limited to RFPRA leagues, travel teams, and organizations renting/using our fields/facilities.***

When heat indices reach dangerous levels, safety overrides competitive schedules.

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## 6. Extreme Cold

Activities may be delayed or canceled due to:

- Freezing temperatures (35°F or below at the start of the first game of the day/night)
- Frozen or hazardous playing surfaces

If conditions create an unreasonable risk of cold-related injury, activities will not proceed.

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## 7. Communication of Weather Decisions

Decisions regarding cancellations or delays will be made by 2:30pm on weekdays and by 8:30am on weekends. Weather-related decisions will be communicated through official RFPRA channels, including:

- Rome-Floyd Parks and Recreation social media
- Coach's groups in the SportsYou app that all coaches are instructed to download and join
- "Rome-Floyd Parks and Recreation Weather Alerts" parent group in the SportsYou app.

***Only information released by RFPRA should be considered official.***

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## 8. Rescheduling & Make-Ups

Cancelled games or practices will be rescheduled when feasible, based on:

- Field and facility availability
- Program timelines
- Staffing and officiating resources

Make-ups are not guaranteed. RFPRA sports staff will exhaust all avenues to reschedule any weather-related cancellations if at all possible.  
Weather cancellations do not automatically require rescheduling.

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## **9. Compliance**

All participants, coaches, officials, spectators, and staff are required to comply with this policy. Failure to follow weather-related directives may result in removal from facilities or additional disciplinary action.

Safety is mandatory, not optional.



You've been invited to join

## Rome-Floyd Parks and Recreation Weather Alerts

Use your **unique access code** below and follow the instructions.

Access Code  
**9LGG-T5F6**

### Join via Website

#### New Users

1. From your computer, phone, or tablet, visit **sportsyou.com**
2. Click **Get Started** and enter your email
3. Go to your email and click **Confirm Your Email**
4. Click **Enter Access Code** to enter code, then finish setting up your account

#### Existing Users

1. From your computer, phone, or tablet, go to **sportsyou.com** and log in
2. In left column, click **Join Team/Group**.
3. Click **Enter Access Code** to enter code, then **Join Team** or **Join Group**

### Join via App

#### New Users

1. On mobile device download **sportsYou app** from the **App Store** (iOS) or **Google Play Store** (Android)
2. Open the sportsYou app and tap **Create Account**
3. Tap **Enter Access Code** to enter code, then finish set up

#### Existing Users

1. On mobile device log in
2. In bottom tray, tap **Teams/Groups**
3. Tap **blue +** button, then tap **Join Team/Group**
4. Enter access code and click **Join**



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