



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.

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.

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.

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.

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 **GHSA 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.

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.

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.

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.

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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