**BOMBA WEATHER POLICY**

BOMBA makes every effort possible to protect our players, officials and volunteers. Decisions related to running or cancelling activities are made based on information provided by Environment Canada and Halton Public Health. A decision to cancel BOMBA activities are made based on anticipated conditions at the event time, not necessarily those present earlier in the day. Conditions can change throughout the day which makes decision making more challenging.

Baseball is a game that is played outside and is subject to the elements more than indoor sports. Heat, humidity, smoke, wind, dust, rain and cold are some of the conditions faced on a ball diamond. Decisions are made based on the organization as a whole and not on specific fields, parts of the city or individual teams. Individual players must make their own decision to participate if pre-existing health conditions exist that may adversely affect their ability to be outdoors and participating.

The availability of fields is first made by the City of Burlington. During periods of inclement weather, the Parks and Recreation Department may elect to close its fields. BOMBA has no control over the decision making and must follow the direction of city officials. If the parks are closed by the city, BOMBA must not use the fields no matter the condition later on. Communication of park closures are relayed from the Parks Scheduler to coaches as soon as possible once BOMBA is notified. All parents, coaches, and officials are encouraged to subscribe to alerts from the City of Burlington. From the menu on the city website, Select ‘Parks, Facilities and Rentals’ then select ‘Facility, Sports Field and Pool Closures’ .

Official baseball rules are in place regarding in-game procedures for dealing with severe weather. Field conditions are the responsibility of the Home Coach until the plate meeting. At the plate meeting, weather and field decisions transfer to the umpiring crew. BOMBA may utilize Executive, Convenors, and Mentors to assist umpires during in-game weather situations. All umpire decisions are final and are not debatable.

BOMBA follows Baseball Ontario’s policy regarding Thunderstorms. The Baseball Ontario policy is created in direct consultation with Environment Canada. There is no rule in Baseball Ontario that addresses lightning. The rule deals strictly with Thunder. The slogan ***“When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors”*** is communicated to all umpires in training and to coaches at the annual coaches meeting. During a Thunder Delay, the playing field is to be cleared and all persons are to seek shelter in a vehicle or indoors. Parents need to be aware during inclement weather that they need to be nearby to potentially provide shelter for their child if a delay is called. Once a delay is called, a 30-minute waiting period starts and cannot be shortened. The 30-minute clock resets every time a new crack of Thunder is heard. Responsibility falls on the Head Coach(es) during practice times. After 30 minutes, players will have the opportunity to return to the field and warm up and then the game may resume.