



## APPENDIX B: ALBERTA ONE WEATHER TRAVEL POLICY

The Alberta One Weather Travel Policy assists Leagues and their teams in managing the risks of poor travel conditions or circumstances in a fair and equitable manner. This policy will allow for real time decisions based on the circumstances of the travelling teams regardless of location, time, distances and weather conditions.

This policy does not apply in situations involving travel within the same city or municipality (Example: City of Calgary city limits or City of Edmonton city limits).

### GENERAL PHILOSOPHY

Regardless of geography across Alberta, the weather can impact travel to games to the point where risk management of the travel is the most important decision about the game(s) that day.

When a hockey game can be postponed and rescheduled, no one will argue that playing the game is more important than participant safety when travel is required.

Team level decisions should be made without direct pressure, intimidation or other forms of undue pressure being presented and it must not be used as an excuse or advantage to the travelling participants to opt out of the game.

At no time, should actions be taken by League representatives or other participants to bully, coerce, threaten or otherwise engage in making a team feel like they must travel. The decision must be made by the team(s) travelling and the host of the game.

The people undertaking the travelling must be the final decision makers on if the route and trip can be travelled safely or at a risk level that they wish to accept.

### POLICY

Hockey Alberta and its Leagues will never force a team to travel to a game in adverse/ severe weather situations. Games will not be cancelled but will be considered for short notice postponement only due to adverse/ severe weather conditions or other unforeseen circumstances.

Definitions for adverse/ severe weather conditions include but are not limited to heavy snowfall or freezing rain that causes dangerous driving conditions.

### DECISION MAKING FACTORS

The following considerations and circumstances should be considered by the travelling team prior to making the decision not to travel to a game:

- Weather statements, watches and warnings issued by Environment Canada less than 24 hours prior to the start of the game.  
**Note:** Weather statements, watches and warnings received more than 48 hours prior to the start of the game can result in premature decision making.
- Localized travel restrictions or recommendations to not travel unless necessary.  
**Note:** Travel restrictions or recommendations should be considered for all areas travelled, as bordering local police agencies may have different restrictions or recommendations in place due to local travel advisories.
- Real time reports or reports from other participants in the area in question or from the host team participants.
- The time of day, age of participants, distance of travel and current changes to the weather.
- The route or travel is near or through areas where adverse / severe weather could arrive during or after the destination has been reached.

### POSTPONEMENT PROCEDURES

Should the travelling team decide it is unsafe to travel due to adverse/ severe weather conditions, the following procedure must be followed:



1. Within 12 hours prior to the start of the game, the travelling team should contact the opposing team's Manager and League to inform them of the potential adverse/ severe weather conditions and planned departure time.

**Note:** Should the game start prior to 11 AM, the travelling team should contact the opposing Team's Manager and League the evening before to inform them of the potential adverse/ severe weather conditions and planned departure time.

2. Within two (2) hours prior to departure time, the travelling team must contact the opposing team's Manager and League, to declare their intent to postpone the game due to adverse/ severe weather conditions.
3. With both teams in agreement to postpone, the League will provide written approval to both Managers. MHA Presidents and local Official Assignor on the postponement and the reasons.
4. With the game postponed, the two (2) teams will split the cost of ice.
5. If the on-ice officials are contacted prior to them travelling to the arena, the cost of officials will be waived. However, should the officials be travelling to or at the arena, the cost of officials will be paid by the home team.
6. Within 48 hours of postponement, the game must be rescheduled and communicated to the League.

#### **FAILURE TO COMPLY/ ABUSE OF POLICY**

Should teams or participants not follow the procedures or process in this policy, the League will conduct a thorough investigation into the situation.

Should the investigation determine that the procedures and process were not followed, the League holds the right to fine the offending team a maximum of \$2500 and suspend the Head Coach for five (5) games. The offending team will be suspended from all game play (League, Exhibition, Tournament and Exhibition) until the fine is paid.