



GAME CANCELLATION POLICY

Doc. No.	BCSA-POL-007
Rev.	0
Originator:	D. Hawkins
Checker	I. Toellner
Approver:	C. Craig
Status:	Published
Effective:	December 2023

Soccer is an outdoor sport; we play in the rain, we play in the cold, and sometimes we play in the snow, depending on the season. Still, the safety of players and coaches is a prime concern. Visible lightning or audible thunder – at the soccer fields or during soccer play will automatically result in the suspension of games by the match Official and, depending on the duration, cancellation of all games being played at that time. Subsequent games to be played later that day will be cancelled separately if weather conditions continue.

Due to rapidly changing weather conditions and in keeping with the Big Country Soccer Association's desire to minimize the total number of weather cancellations, advance notice of weather cancellations may not always be possible. It is recommended parents and children always show up to the field unless they have received notification from their coach, team manager or other Association representatives.

Criteria For Cancellation

1. Due to field conditions or safety concerns: Either the member's community or, if a Big Country Soccer Association event, the Board, may declare the soccer fields "unplayable". Most often this is due to the fields being excessively wet.

2. Due to Weather: As an outdoor sport soccer is played in less than ideal conditions including falling drizzle, rain, sleet and snow. However, the presence of visible lightning or audible thunder - at the soccer fields and at the time of play (with or without falling rain) creates a safety concern and necessitates a soccer cancellation. Bad weather can move through Big Country very quickly, therefore, advance notice of weather cancellations may or may not be possible. The "Lightning and Severe Weather Policy" (*Ref: BCSA-POL-006*) will be followed.

3. Opposing Team Cancellation: If the opposing team does not provide suitable notification for not being able to attend a scheduled game or does not show up, the game may be cancelled at the field location of the game.

Cancellation Procedures

1. Due to field conditions or safety concerns:

If the member's community and/ or Big Country Soccer Association decide to declare fields "unplayable" this decision will be made by 4:00pm on weeknights. The coach for the team that is scheduled to play will be notified to update the team and send a notification to the opposition team of the cancelled game due to field condition.

The member's President and/ or designated representative will call or e-mail Big Country Soccer Association of the game cancellation due to field conditions being unplayable. The member is responsible to notify the scheduled Match Official of the game being cancelled due to field condition not being playable.

2. Due to Weather:

"Advance" cancellations:

If the member can declare a weather cancellation in advance, this determination will be made no later than two hours before the scheduled soccer start time.

Coaches and Team managers are not permitted to declare "advance" weather cancellations.



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The procedure for notifying member's (opposing team) is as follows:

- a) The member will send Big Country Soccer Association notification of the cancelled game.
- b) The coach will be notified of the cancelled game. If a parent, coach, or manager has not received a cancellation notice, players and coaches are expected to show up at the field where they will learn if games have been cancelled.
- c) The coach will send notifications to the opposing team to notify them of the cancellation due to weather conditions.

"On-Field" cancellations:

If a weather cancellation is not made more than one hour before scheduled soccer start time an on-field cancellation may be needed due to changing weather conditions. If changing weather conditions raise hope that the visible lightning or audible thunder conditions will pass before scheduled start time the "on-field" cancellation declaration will be delayed until start time.

On-field cancellations can be declared by the Match Official as per the "Lightning and Severe Weather Policy" (Ref: BCSA-POL-006).

3. Opposing team cancellations:

"Advance" cancellations:

If the opposing team is not able to attend a scheduled game and provides advanced notification, coaches will determine a date and time to reschedule the game. In such cases, note the following:

- a) The member's team is notified of the rescheduled game. Big Country Soccer Association will then be notified of the rescheduled game.
- b) The member is to notify the assigned scheduled Match Official.
- c) The coach will notify the Team Manager and/ or parents of the rescheduled game.

"No advanced" cancellation:

If an opposing team does not provide advanced notification, the attending Match Official may forfeit the game. If notification was provided just before the game, the coaches will discuss actions for either a forfeit or a rescheduled game. However, the opposing team will be required to pay for the Match Official due to a lack of notification that they will not be able to attend a scheduled game and provided no advanced notification. In such cases, note the following:

- a) The member's President and/ or designated representative is notified of the game that was not played as per the scheduled date and time due to no advanced cancellation. Big Country Soccer Association will then be notified of the missed game with no advanced notification.



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- b) The member is to notify the assigned schedule Match Official that the game will not proceed.
- c) The member is to prepare a statement for the opposing team's Association to cover the fee of the Match Official for the cancelled game without advanced notification.
- d) If a rescheduled game has been decided between the coaches, notification to the member's President and/ or designated representative will be completed and an update Big Country Soccer Association is to be done.
- e) The Match Official will be contacted and rescheduled for the new date and time of the game.

Reference

Canada Soccer Association Lightning Safety/ Severe Weather Policy
Big Country Soccer Association Lightning and Severe Weather Policy (Ref: BCSA-POL-006)