



Edmonton Ultimate Players Association

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Weather Policy

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1. Purpose

EUPA wants all members to play the appropriate number of games in the season; however, keeping in mind our members' safety as well as the City of Edmonton "Inclement Weather Guidelines"¹ and Alberta Air Quality Health Index (AQHI)² games are subject to cancellation. This document outlines the various scenarios where an event (games/tournaments/social) may be impacted by the weather.

2. Scope

The EUPA Weather Policy applies to all EUPA events held outdoors. For the purposes of this document, the term "Captain" refers to the following:

- Team Captains in team leagues;
- EUPA Ambassadors in hat leagues;
- EUPA Tournament Director; and
- EUPA Youth Coaches in youth programming.

3. Application

3.1 Prior to the Start of Event - Cancellation

For an **Adult program or event cancellation by EUPA**, the EUPA Staff (Admin Coordinator) will reach out to captains or participants **2 hours prior** to the start of the event.

¹ https://www.edmonton.ca/activities_parks_recreation/sports-field-maintenance

² <https://www.alberta.ca/about-the-air-quality-health-index>

For a **Youth program or event cancellation by EUPA**, the EUPA Youth Committee will reach out to captains or participants **2 hours prior to the start of the event or by at 4pm**, whichever is earliest.

The following conditions will result in EUPA cancelling events:

- **Field closure**
 - Games are cancelled if the venue closes the fields (City of Edmonton or other).
- **Air quality**
 - Games are cancelled if the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI+) as measured by the station in closest proximity to the venue is 7+ at the aforementioned cut off time for Adult and Youth programming.³
- **Natural disasters and other unforeseen circumstances**
 - Games are cancelled in the event of other inclement weather events or major catastrophic circumstances.

3.2 At the Venue - Cancellation

If EUPA has not cancelled the event, games proceed as scheduled. However, circumstances at the field may be unsafe for play.

- **Grass field damage**
 - The City Inclement Weather Guidelines follows a user discretion approach. The user discretion empowers the user to make a common sense decision on whether or not to cancel an event on their field. The City asks if there is any standing water on the field or sports play will cause turf damage, postpone and reschedule the event. If damage occurs as a result of a user decision to play, the user will be held responsible for all repair costs and may also have their booking privileges revoked. If any of the following conditions are present, games must not proceed.
 - The field is saturated (i.e. visible puddles, squishes when you walk, large muddy areas);
 - It's raining and the field becomes saturated during play; and
 - The field has frost and/or is frozen.
- **Other safety issues that may lead to cancellation at the field**
 - Dangerous, immovable objects on the playing area;
 - Criminal activity;
 - Dangerous wildlife; and
 - Acts of God (natural disasters).

³ Follow this link [Live Air Data Map Edmonton](#) for the reading closest to the field.

3.3 At the Venue - Suspension of the Game

If EUPA has not cancelled the event and teams are ready to play or have already begun the game, the following scenarios will lead to a suspension of play which can be initiated by either captain. Unless otherwise outlined, play will be **paused for 15 minutes before resuming**. EUPA recommends that everyone go to their vehicles or nearby shelter. After the first pause, if **both captains agree**, the game may be paused for an additional 15 minutes or cancelled. If captains cannot agree and one team leaves the field, the team that leaves will receive a forfeit, but may appeal the result. The game will be cancelled after 3 consecutive 15 minute pauses (45 minutes total) occurs unless conditions improve and Captain's agree to play.

- **Temporary weather conditions**
 - Poor air quality
 - Air Quality Health Index (AQHI+) as measured by the station in closest proximity to the venue is 7+
 - Hail
 - Lightning (an automatic **30 minute pause** applies)
 - The 30/30 rule: If thunder occurs within 30 seconds of lightning at your location, players must seek shelter in a safe location and remain there for 30 minutes after the most recent occurrence.

3.4 If the Game is Cancelled by Captains at the Field

Captains must notify EUPA Admin Coordinator (admin@eupa.ca) and carbon copy the Executive Director (executivedirector@eupa.ca) and League Coordinators after any cancellations. Games that are cancelled will not push back the league's schedule. By default, a score of 0-0 will be submitted for games that are cancelled for any reason. If a game has started and 5 points have been played prior to a captain's cancellation, captains submit their scores for the game. If fewer than 5 points have been played, captains may choose to use a score of 0-0 by default, or submit their score if **both** captains agree.

Captains may, at their discretion, reschedule games on their own time and submit their scores to the League. EUPA will assist in finding fields if needed for rescheduled games. Captains can contact EUPA Staff for more information in this situation.

4. Captains' Clause

Note that **one team cannot unilaterally cancel** a game due to the weather. Captains are to remind themselves and their teams of EUPA and Ultimate Canada's policies on Spirit of the Game⁴ to guide decisions between teams.

If the fields are open, both teams are expected to play. If one team does not arrive with the minimum required roster to play in their league as defined in the Captain's Manual, they are in default. However, if **both captains communicate in advance**, they can jointly agree to cancel or postpone a game. EUPA **requires** that captains hold off the decision to cancel until **2 hours before the event** is scheduled to begin, to allow EUPA to provide official cancellation notice if deemed appropriate and for teams to accurately evaluate the conditions close to game time. Note, if teams decide to cancel, they are encouraged to engage in alternative social activities.

4.1 Mediation of Captains' Clause

EUPA understands that not all decisions can be made collaboratively at all times between captains. In an effort to resolve potential disputes, captains can agree to seek a mediator as appointed by EUPA. The EUPA Executive Director (executivedirector@eupa.ca) will act as the appointed EUPA mediator for Captains' Clause, however, this mediation is to act as a last resort option and is not to be utilized at every dispute as it goes against EUPA and Ultimate Canada's Spirit of the Game policies. A window of mediation support will be held between 7pm to 7:30pm on league nights.

5. Appeals Process

If a team receives a forfeit for unilaterally cancelling a game, they can fill out [this form](#) to appeal to the EUPA Executive Director (executivedirector@eupa.ca) to request to have the result changed.

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<https://cloud.rampinteractive.com/eupaca/files/Policies%20and%20Forms/2023%20EUPA%20Spirit%20Policy.pdf>