



MEMO – WEATHER

To: All Lakeland Minor Ball League Associations, Managers, Coaches, Players, Umpires

From: Chris Moser, President

cc: Lakeland Minor Ball League Board of Directors

Date: June 18, 2025

Re: LMBL Weather Policy & Mitigation Guidance to Host Teams

Hello Community Leaders,

It has been another interesting season both with smoke and now forecasted rain in 2025. While both are treated differently because of their impact on your overall health. They are equally as challenging because they directly impact games being played all around the Lakeland. The inclement weather will be different between the various locations and host sites, so please manage at the host site level the best you can.

In preparation for the LMBL Finals Weekend, LMBL would like to highlight information found on Softball and Baseball Alberta's websites regarding inclement weather (rain and smoke) events:

1. Can games be put on hold or pushed to a later time during smoke or rain?
 - a. Answer – Yes, they can within reason, this can be determined by the host as long as the umpires involved are willing or available to wait.
 - i. Communication is key and making sure that everyone is on board to be patient.
 - ii. The host has the final decision and that should be respected and not challenged.
2. Who decides when a game is to be cancelled and how much notice is required to cancel a game?
 - a. If there is no rain one hour prior to the game you would continue your event and then it would be up to the umpires and/or host to decide if rain starts during a game, whether that field is playable or safe for the athletes or in any risk of damage to the facility to end that game.
 - b. If there is rain prior to the game starting one hour before, it is up to the host to communicate whether they will try to postpone the game or if they must cancel because their field has taken too much water.
3. What type of communication is expected to be delivered by the host team?
 - a. The host team is expected to open a clear communication channel with all visiting teams and umpiring assignor regarding the upcoming weather risks when long distance travel is involved.

4. Should games be called, suspended, or cancelled:
 - a. All LMBL final games has a game duration time limit (except the championship medal game at end).
 - i. Please continue the game duration timer during the weather events.
 - ii. Please continue to play as long as safe to continue, the plate umpire has sole discretion to call the game due to weather.
 - iii. The host site shall support the plate umpire with messaging to team coaches.
 - b. Light rain shower
 - i. If a baseball (round robin) or softball (bracket) game is suspended due to weather, and can re-start within the original game duration, it may continue until the game duration expires and then it is over. To keep overall event schedule. Tie remains a tie.
 - c. Longer heavy rain
 - i. If a baseball (round robin) or softball (bracket) game is called due to weather, and cannot be finished within the allotted game duration, the game will be finalized with whatever the score was after the last complete inning. Tie remains a tie.
 - d. Thunderstorms: 30 / 30 Rule.
 - i. **WHEN THUNDER ROARS, GO INDOORS!**
 1. Count number of seconds between the flash and the first sound of thunder.
 - a. If count is 30 seconds or less, leave the field immediately and find shelter.
 - b. Shelter in place until 30 minutes after the last rumble of thunder.
 - c. Host site to re-start 30-minute timer for each lighting strike, if it continues.
 - ii. If a baseball (round robin) or softball (bracket) game is cancelled due to weather and cannot be started. The host site coordinator, along with the team managers, and their LMBL league representative(s) will propose a solution and path forward.
 - e. Only the Championship Medal Game(s) will follow either BBA or SBA inclement weather delay policy and may re-schedule a weeknight championship medal game.
 - i. Subject to LMBL scheduling committee review [M – W (Softball & 15U). T – Th (Baseball)].
 - f. If the baseball (round robin) or softball (bracket) games cannot be completed over the weekend, then there will be no league final for that category, age, tier this season.
 5. For Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) rules, Baseball will follow BBA rules and Softball will follow SBA rules.
 6. Further information can be found here: [Weather Event FAQ](#) or [Inclement Weather Policy](#)



Source: <https://softball.ca/policies/inclementweather>

Other weather mitigation items to consider:

1. Host sites may cover their pitcher's mound, batter's boxes, and base(s) with plastic tarps and sandbags / pegs.
2. Host sites may provide shelter tents over scorekeepers' tables & chairs to assist with inclement weather.
3. Host sites shall discuss with managers to drop games (ie. Eliminate 2nd knockout or a round robin game that doesn't change results) to assist with maintaining game schedules.
4. Coaches, Managers, Players, and Umpires shall bring appropriate / extra clothes for forecasted conditions.

We know we can't control the weather, but we can prepare for it. We'll do the best we can, so please have fun filled games, with outstanding sportsmanship and fair play!

Chris.

LMBL President

