



## MEMO – INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

**To:** All Lakeland Minor Ball League Associations, Managers, Coaches, Players, Umpires  
**From:** Pam Cannan, President  
**cc:** Lakeland Minor Ball League Board of Directors  
**Date:** May 27, 2026  
**Re:** LMBL Inclement Weather Policy

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In preparation for the LMBL League and Championship games weekends, we would like to provide a LMBL Weather Policy for inclement weather (rain & smoke) events. While both are treated differently because of their impact on your overall health. They are equally 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. LMBL would like to highlight information found on Softball and Baseball Alberta's websites regarding inclement weather events:

1. 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 site coordinator to communicate whether they will try to postpone the game or if they must cancel because their field has taken too much water.
2. What type of communication is expected to be delivered by the host site coordinator?
  - a. The host site coordinator 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.
3. Can games be put on hold or pushed to a later time during inclement weather (smoke or rain) events?
  - a. Answer – Yes, games can be pushed within reason, this can be determined by the host if 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 site coordinator has the final decision and that should be respected and not challenged.
- 4. Should games be called, suspended, or cancelled:
  - a. All LMBL final games has a game duration time limit (except the championship medal game).
    - 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 coordinator shall support the plate umpire with messaging to team coaches, if required.
  - b. Light rain shower
    - i. If a baseball or softball 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 or softball 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 or softball game is cancelled due to weather and cannot be started. The host site coordinator, along with the team managers, and the LMBL President 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 championship final game for that category, age, tier this season.
- 5. Rain Out Form – Website at [Lakeland Minor Ball : Website by RAMP InterActive](#)
  - a. Use this form to submit rainouts only. Games will be marked as rainout in the schedule.

- b. The home team manager can login and mark the game as a rainout themselves. They are not required to submit this form.
  - c. You do not need to submit a rainout form if you have already rescheduled the game. Please proceed with the game change form instead.
  - d. To reschedule a game refer to the [Game Change Request](#) on the Lakeland Minor Ball website.
  - e. You must include the 5-digit game number or the game will not be marked as a rainout (click on your team then "league games" to get the game number).
  - f. Game Number\* (click on "league games" from your team's page on the website to view the schedule with the 5-digit game number)
6. For Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) rules, Baseball will follow BBA rules and Softball will follow SBA rules.
  7. Further information can be found here: [Weather Event FAQ](#) or [Inclement Weather Policy](#)

**SOFTBALL CANADA SEVERE WEATHER POLICY**

SOFTBALL CANADA'S POLICY ON SEVERE WEATHER

**RESPONSIBILITIES**  
The Softball Canada Representative or designate, along with the umpire supervisors and crew, hold the responsibility of stopping a game in the event of severe weather.

**THUNDER ROARS = STOP**  
When thunder is heard, the game will be stopped. Players, coaches, umpires, and spectators should promptly find suitable shelter.

**FIND ADEQUATE SHELTER**  
The dugout does not suffice as proper shelter. Any frequently utilized structure is deemed safe. A vehicle with a hard metal roof and windows rolled up can offer a degree of safety.

**RESUMING THE ACTION**  
During Softball Canada events, the Softball Canada representative and umpires will wait a minimum of thirty (30) minutes after the final sound of thunder before returning to the field and continuing the game.

**GET EDUCATED**  
The Canadian Lightning Danger Map, designed by Environment Canada is available for review prior or during any events.  
[https://weather.gc.ca/lightning/index\\_e.html](https://weather.gc.ca/lightning/index_e.html)

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

**Other weather mitigation items to consider:**

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

We know we can not control inclement weather; however, we can prepare for it. We'll do the best we can, so please communicate openly, have fun filled games, with outstanding sportsmanship and fair play.