

# PMBA Weather, Lightning, and Air Quality Policy

Approved by PMBA Executive: January 15, 2026

Applies to All Baseball and Softball Divisions

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## 1. Purpose

This policy provides clear guidelines for postponing, delaying, or cancelling games, practices, and events due to weather-related concerns — including **rain, lightning, extreme heat, poor air quality, and unsafe field conditions**.

The safety of players, coaches, umpires, and spectators must always take priority.

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## 2. General Weather Considerations

Coaches and umpires are expected to:

- Use discretion when field conditions (e.g., flooding, standing water, heavy mud) make play unsafe.
  - Communicate cancellations as early as possible via TeamSnap or their designated platform.
  - Inspect the field before every practice or game to identify hazards (e.g., exposed anchors, debris).
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## 3. Lightning Safety

If lightning is seen or thunder is heard:

- **Play must be suspended immediately** and all participants must seek shelter.
- Fields must remain cleared for **30 minutes after the last observed lightning or thunder**.
- **Dugouts and trees are not considered safe shelter**. A safe location is a fully enclosed building or a hard-topped vehicle with the windows closed.

Only once the full 30-minute window has passed without additional lightning or thunder may the game or practice resume.

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## 4. Heat and Sun Exposure

Coaches must:

- Encourage frequent water breaks during heat warnings or extremely sunny conditions.
- Monitor players for signs of heat exhaustion (e.g., dizziness, nausea, fatigue).
- Allow flexible dress codes (e.g., removing ball caps, modifying gear) when appropriate.

PMBA recommends cancelling or shortening practices if the **humidex exceeds 35°C**, especially for younger age groups.

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## 5. Air Quality Guidelines

PMBA uses Alberta's **Air Quality Health Index (AQHI)** to guide decisions. Coaches and team staff must monitor current AQHI levels using Environment Canada or trusted sources.

### Baseball Alberta Guidelines

- **AQHI 1–6 (Low to Moderate Risk):** Play may proceed as scheduled.
- **AQHI 7–9 (High Risk):** Monitor player symptoms; modify or shorten activity as needed.
- **AQHI 10+ (Very High Risk):** Cancel or reschedule outdoor activities. No on-field play permitted.

### Softball Alberta Guidelines

- **AQHI 7 or higher:** All outdoor games and practices must be suspended or cancelled.

 *Note: If there is visible smoke or strong odour from wildfire smoke, PMBA recommends postponing activity regardless of AQHI number, especially for younger divisions or at-risk individuals.*

 *AQHI forecasts are available via Environment Canada or the WeatherCAN app.*

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## 6. Decision Authority

- Coaches may cancel practices at their discretion for safety or comfort.
  - Umpires have the final say in cancelling a **game in progress** due to field conditions or weather.
  - Tournament directors or PMBA executives may override coach decisions in league-wide events or provincial play.
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## 7. Make-Up Games or Practices

If an event is cancelled due to weather:

- PMBA encourages rescheduling where possible, especially for league or tiering games.
- Field bookings must be coordinated through the appropriate division or facility contact.