



Policy Name:	Air Quality Policy
Effective Date:	February 5, 2025
Approved by:	SPMB Board

POLICY STATEMENT

This policy aims to ensure the safety and well-being of participants involved in baseball activities (games and practices) by providing guidelines on when it is safe to play or practice outdoors based on air quality conditions, with a focus on the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI).

BACKGROUND

The AQHI is a recognized risk management measurement which describes a local reading of air quality as it relates to human health. The AQHI provides a number on a 1 to 10 scale to indicate the level of relative health risk associated with local air quality. The higher the AQHI number, the greater the potential health risk and need to take precautions. The scale is divided into the following categories:

- 1-3 = Low Risk
- 4-6 = Moderate Risk
- 7-10 = High Risk
- 10+ = Very High Risk

APPLICATION

This policy applies to all St. Paul Minor Ball practices and Lakeland League games. Provincial team games will follow appropriate Baseball Alberta or Softball Alberta air quality policy.

AQHI can be monitored at <https://airquality.alberta.ca/map/>. The closest monitoring station to where the game is located is to be used. For games/practices located in St. Paul, the AQHI at the St. Lina monitoring station will be used. AQHI should be monitored prior to a game or practice so that a decision can be made prior to everyone showing up. SPMB board will make the decision to cancel practices or games.

AQHI of 7 or higher means that outdoor play should be stopped immediately. SPMB will notify all coaches and managers that practices and games are to be cancelled. Coaches/managers will then notify their team and any other teams/umpires that AQHI exceeds 7 and that play is to be stopped.

If the AQHI is between 4 and 6, ongoing AQHI monitoring should be initiated in order to identify to the umpire, teams, Tournament Supervisors, etc. if the index should reach 7 or higher and if play needs to be stopped after it has started.

In practice situations, if the AQHI is between 4 and 6, athletic activity should be adjusted through reduced intensity, reduced duration and providing rest periods.

RESOURCES

Environment Alberta About AQHI: <https://www.alberta.ca/about-the-air-quality-health-index>

Environment Alberta AQHI Map: <https://airquality.alberta.ca/map/>

Environment Canada AQHI:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/air-quality-health-index.html>

Alberta Air Quality Advisory Site: <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/news/air.aspx>

Sport Information Resource Centre AQHI Infographic:
https://sirc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/AQHI_Infographic_EN.pdf

Baseball Alberta Air Quality Policy:
https://www.publicationsports.com/ressources/files/1618/Air_Quality_Policy_-_Baseball_Alberta_DFT_v5_03182024.pdf?t=1711571208

Softball Alberta Air Quality Policy:
<https://www.softballalberta.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Air-Quality-Smoke.pdf>