



South Soccer League (SSL) - Extreme Weather Policy

The South Soccer League, a joint venture of the Hamilton and District Soccer Association and the Niagara Soccer Association, uses the following policies as guidelines in cases of extreme weather. These policies are subject to change and are current SSL policy as of July 15, 2026.

A. Extreme Heat

Prior to kickoff, temperatures will be monitored by league officials for safety purposes. The league will follow the temperature and humidex readings from the Government of Canada Weather website for the local area. Should forecasted temperatures exceed the 39C Humidex measurement prior to 2pm on weekdays and 8am for weekends, games will be cancelled and rescheduled. Decisions will be made by 2pm on weekdays and 8am on weekends. Cancellation decisions and notices will come from the league, not individual clubs/teams.

For temperatures in the ranges listed below, the following will be implemented.

Temperature Reading prior to Kickoff

- 32C and below – Soccer activities proceed as normal
- 32C-38C – Increased water breaks are instituted, with a mandatory 2-minute break per half, with further breaks at the referee's discretion
- 39C or above – Soccer activity will be cancelled and rescheduled. Referee and Home Coach to notify league of postponement and game will be rescheduled, if possible, within league timelines.

Increase in Temperature post Kick-off

- Increase above 32C, but below 38C – The referee shall institute extra water breaks as listed above
- Increase above 39C – At the referee's discretion the match may be shortened, ended, or cancelled depending on the elapsed time in the match.

B. Lightning Policy

The SSL follows the guidelines directed by Canada Soccer's Lightning Policy ([Canada Soccer - Lightning Policy](#)) Match officials will be the ultimate arbiter of weather and field safety and will make final on-field decisions regarding lightning and playability.

C. Air Quality

The South Soccer League will decide on playability of games due to air quality following the below matrix. The Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) provided by Environment Canada will be referenced by the league for safety

Reading Level	Action
1 - 3	Play proceeds as normal
4 - 6	Mandatory water breaks instituted, activities should be monitored and modified in case of worsening conditions
7 - 10	All games will be cancelled by the league

Game Cancellations

Match officials will be the ultimate arbiter of field/weather safety. They will have the power to decide playability due to weather conditions and concerns. They will have final decision-making power on weather concerns at the field. For in-progress matches, we will follow Ontario Soccer guidelines on when a match is officially considered completed or abandoned.

Game Rescheduling

- For matches cancelled by the League prior to Kick-Off, these games will be rescheduled, when league timelines allow it. We will do our best to endeavor these matches will be played with the same home field as the cancelled match; however, the league does deserve the right to reschedule these as they see fit.
- For matches that are abandoned in progress that have not met the threshold for a completed match, the game will be referred to the League Office for rescheduling, following the guidelines above.
- For matches that are ended early, but deemed to be complete per Ontario Soccer rules, the result will stand, in accordance with Ontario Soccer & Canada Soccer guidelines.