

# MIDLOTHIAN AMATEUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION



## WEATHER POLICY

Updated: Fall 2025

# **Midlothian Little League**

## **Lightning/Severe**

### **Weather Policy**

Weather related updates to city playing fields are made at about 2:00 pm on days when we are experiencing or following inclement weather. The City of Midlothian is in regular contact with the league President to inform them of field and facility closures. Once guidance is received, we will pass along this information through our Facebook page, as well as through our Division Commissioners to each active coach. In the event that we experience inclement weather during our practices or games, we will follow the protocols outlined below regarding lightning, and heat/cold related response. In the event of a rain event during a scheduled practice or game, the on-duty board member, the umpires, and the coaches impacted will all be responsible for judiciously responding to keep all players and families safe.

#### **LIGHTNING:**

The Perry Weather Lightning Warning System is installed at Jaycee Park and the Midlothian Community Park. The sensors continuously monitor the atmosphere's electrostatic energy as far away as 30 miles and evaluate the potential for lightning within an area of approximately 10 miles in radius. When the conditions increase to a point where lightning may occur, the Perry Weather horns sound a single 15 second long blast and the strobe light on the Perry Weather System will begin flashing. If you hear the horns or see the strobe light, seek appropriate shelter for the duration of the alert. All outdoor activities must cease during the alert period to protect the visitors and users of the parks. Appropriate shelters include buildings, automobiles, and when one of those is not available seek cover in a low-lying area. However, if the conditions appear unsafe and an alert alarm has not sounded, common sense should be your guide, and activities should still cease despite the absence of a Perry Weather Warning. When the Perry Weather sensor detects the danger has passed (a minimum of 10 minutes after the original alarm) it will send the all-clear signal. The strobe light will stop flashing and three separate 5 second long blasts will sound. After the all-clear signal is sounded, it is safe, according to the Perry Weather system, to resume outdoor activities. Again, common sense should still govern, and if the conditions do not appear to be safe to resume outside activity it is best to wait until the weather circumstances change regardless of an all clear from the Perry Weather System. Due to the unpredictability of weather patterns, it may be possible for the alert to sound multiple times within an hour or even sound when there are clear skies and no danger. While stopping and restarting athletic activities due to Perry Weather warnings may result in some frustration, it is important to remember that the Perry Weather system's warnings should be heeded at all times. The potential risk to people is too great to ignore and the consequences of an accident are too severe. Many of the lightning deaths and injuries that occur each year are from the first lightning strike from an incoming storm or from the rear of a storm that appears to have passed through the area. The chance of these types of tragedies can be minimized by using the Perry Weather system, which relies on monitoring the

atmospheric conditions not visible to the human eye. The responsibility of the safety of our members, their children and any other participants at the park due to severe weather falls explicitly with our Board Members, Coaches, and Umpires equally. Any umpire working in any field has the complete authority to call for the suspension of play due to observed severe weather.

### **EXTREME TEMPERATURES:**

#### **COLD**

In the event of cold weather, it is the Midlothian Amateur Baseball Association's policy that no practices be held, or games played in the following conditions:

- Temperature forecasted below 32 degrees and/or wind chill below 25 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Temperature is below 35 with the presence of participation

#### **HEAT**

Practice or competition in hot and humid environmental conditions poses special problems for student-athletes. Heat stress and resulting heat illness is a primary concern in these conditions. Although deaths from heat illness are rare, constant surveillance and education are necessary to prevent heat-related problems. The following practices should be observed.

- The league will follow the UIL recommended WBGT Activities Guidelines listed below. Our area falls under Class 3 regulations. If any of the following occur but the WBGT remains under 90.1, the following guidelines will take precedence.
- Heat index of 100-105 degrees: After 20 min. of participation each athlete will have a 5-minute break
- Heat index of 105+: All games will be canceled.
- In all conditions, athletes should have unrestricted access to water at all times.

Asthmatic athletes may remove themselves from practices or competitions without penalties or repercussions.

WBGT Activity Guidelines		
Class 3	Class 2	Activity Guidelines
< 82.0	<79.7	Normal Activities - Provide at least three separate rest breaks each hour with a minimum duration of 3 min each during the workout.
82.0 - 86.9	79.7 - 84.6	Use discretion for intense or prolonged exercise; Provide at least three separate rest breaks each hour with a minimum duration of 4 min each. MANDATORY ONSITE RAPID COOLING ZONE (INCLUDING TUB OR TARP)
87.0 - 90.0	84.7 - 87.6	Maximum practice time is 2 hours; <b>For Football:</b> players are restricted to helmet, shoulder pads, and shorts during practice. If the WBGT rises to this level during practice, players may continue to work out wearing football pants without changing to shorts. <b>For All Sports:</b> Provide at least four separate rest breaks each hour with a minimum duration of 4 min each. MANDATORY ONSITE RAPID COOLING ZONE (INCLUDING TUB OR TARP)
90.1 - 92.0	87.7 - 89.7	Maximum practice time is 1 hour; <b>For Football:</b> No protective equipment may be worn during practice, and there may be no conditioning activities. <b>For All Sports:</b> There must be 20 min of rest breaks distributed throughout the hour of practice. MANDATORY ONSITE RAPID COOLING ZONE (INCLUDING TUB OR TARP)
≥92.1	≥89.8	No outdoor workouts. Delay practices until a cooler WBGT is reached.

*\*Values in the above chart are WBGT measurements (not temperature or heat index measurements).*

We as Board Members, Coaches, and Umpires are tasked with the protection of our players, their families and all persons using the park facilities for baseball activities. We will always want to rule in favor of safety when it comes to making weather decisions. Our intent is to try to play if at all possible, due to the impact of scheduling teams and umpires, however, if needed, we can always attempt to reschedule games for another date. If a decision is made to postpone games due to approaching weather, but that weather does not materialize, or for some reason winds up not affecting the park, then we can move ahead knowing that we made the best safety decision with the data that we had.