

WEATHER ALERT SYSTEM PROCEDURES DOCUMENT

Park District Facilities



Introduction

This document serves as an overview of the rules, regulations, and procedures for Harrisburg Township Park District (HTPD) weather alert system notifications. HTPD utilizes Perry Weather to obtain weather related information to help make decisions regarding safe usage of park facilities during possible weather related events.

Contact Information

Contact Name / Organization	Email	Phone Number
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Important Links

- Harrisburg Township Park District: www.harrisburgpark.net

Weather Alert System Locations

- I. Gaskins City Complex
 - A. Weather Alert Siren at Concession Stand.
- II. Bill Rice Memorial Soccer Complex
 - A. Weather Alert Siren at Concession Stand.
- III. Bill Trees Memorial Park Pool
 - A. Public Announcement System at Pool Office.

Weather Alert System Policies - Lightning

- I. Lightning Safety
 - A. Gaskins City Complex: Weather Alert Siren will sound when lightning is detected within a minimum 10 mile radius.
 - B. Bill Rice Memorial Soccer Complex: Weather Alert Siren will sound when lightning is detected within a minimum 10 mile radius.
 - C. Bill Trees Memorial Park Pool: Pool Management will make an announcement over the Public Announcement System when lightning is detected within a minimum 10 mile radius.
 - D. When thunder is heard, or lightning is seen, or the Weather Alert Siren sounds, the leading edge of the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play for at least 30 minutes and seek shelter.
 - E. When lightning detecting devices (such as Perry Weather Alert System) are used, this technology assists in making a decision to suspend play if a lightning strike is noted to be within 10 miles of the activity location. **However, you should never depend on the reliability of these devices and, thus, hearing thunder or seeing lightning should always take precedence over information from lightning detection device.**
 - i. If lightning is seen or thunder is heard and the Weather Alert Siren does not sound, HTPD staff or the activity coordinator should manually activate the Weather Alert Siren and/or utilize available Public Announcement System.
 - ii. In the case where the activity coordinator does not have access to the Weather Alert Siren and/or the Public Announcement System, they should efficiently and effectively communicate the announcement of the suspension of play to everyone in attendance at their program / event.

- F. At night, under certain atmospheric conditions, lightning flashes may be seen from distant storms. In these cases, it may be safe to continue the activity. If no thunder can be heard and the flashes are low on the horizon, the storm may not pose a threat. Independently verified lightning detection information would help eliminate any uncertainty.
- G. Immediately following the announcement of suspension of play, all players, coaches, officials, staff, and spectators are to evacuate the facility to their vehicles or other designated safe locations.
 - i. In the event of lightning during an activity, all persons on the field or facility must retreat to their vehicles or move inside of a nearby building. Congregating in or around the dugouts, bathrooms or under pavilions is prohibited when lightning is present.
 - ii. Participants and spectators should be advised that the bathrooms, dugouts, bleachers, playground equipment, and/or areas under the shelters within the facilities are not considered to be a safe location in the case of lightning.
 - iii. All parties are urged to evacuate the entire facility immediately and remain in a safe location until conditions improve unless otherwise notified by HTPD Staff or the activity coordinator.
 - iv. For Bill Trees Memorial Park Pool the Bathhouse is considered an acceptable safe location in the case of lightning.
- H. Will follow the 30 minutes rule. Once the activity has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or lightning is witnessed prior to resuming play. There will be a countdown timer available online. See attached QR Codes at end of the document for links to the facility countdown timers.
 - i. Any subsequent thunder or lightning after the beginning of the 30 minute count will reset the clock and another 30 minute count should begin.
- I. Return to play – The 30 minute countdown timer must be at 0 and the HTPD staff present or the activity coordinator for the event must give the “all clear” to resume the activity.
- J. Cancellation of Activity
 - i. If the countdown timer is active prior to the activity start time, it does not mean the activity is canceled. The activity may have a delayed start time. Please wait for confirmation from HTPD staff or the activity coordinator for final cancellation of the activity.
 - ii. If the weather event occurs during the activity, it does not mean the activity is canceled. The activity may have a weather delay and return to play after the 30 minute rule is met. Please wait for confirmation from HTPD staff or the activity coordinator for final cancellation of the activity.

Weather Alert System Policies – Heat Stress

I. Heat Stress Safety

- A. HTPD will adhere to the current IHSA Heat Stress Activity Guidelines as defined by Wet Bulb Globe Temperature.
 - i. The Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) is a measurement of Heat Stress. This differs from other temperature and heat indexes as it significantly considers the impact of direct sunlight along with temperature, humidity, wind speed, sun angle and cloud cover. A reading of all these factors simultaneously makes up the WBGT rating at a specific time.
- B. If a Heat Stress event occurs, HTPD staff or the activity coordinator will pass the information and requirements forward to coaches and/or participants by their preferred method. HTPD intends to use SportsEngine messages and chat notifications to inform coaches and/or participants for their events.

- i. If a Heat Stress event occurs during a current activity, HTPD staff or the activity coordinator should make an announcement at the facility, if possible, in addition to notifying coaches and/or participants by their preferred method.
- C. Wet Bulb Globe Temperature: See Attached IHSA WBGT Informational Flyer.
 - i. <80: Below 80 WBGT does not call for restrictions. Normal Activities. Considered a healthy environment for athletes.
 - ii. 80 – 84.5: Discretion needed for intense and prolonged exercise. Frequent and regular water breaks are needed.
 - iii. 84.6 – 87.5: Maximum Practice time of 2 Hours. 20 minute breaks are required throughout each hour of practice. No new contest can begin.
 - iv. 87.6 – 89.9: Maximum Practice time of 1 Hour. 20 minute breaks are required throughout the hour. No protective equipment may be used and no conditioning may take place.
 - v. >89.9: No outdoor Practices, Workouts, or Competitions. Cancel, delay, and/or reschedule all outdoor events.
- D. Cancellation of Activity
 - i. If a Heat Stress event occurs, it does not mean the activity is canceled. The activity may have a delayed start time. Please wait for confirmation from HTPD staff or the activity coordinator for final cancellation of the activity.

Definitions

- I. HTPD Staff – HTPD staff is an authorized representative of Harrisburg Township Park District. HTPD staff will make decisions and be present at HTPD Programs / Events. HTPD staff have the authorization to override any weather related decisions of the activity coordinator at non HTPD Programs / Events (per the HTPD Athletic Field / Facility Guide).
- II. Activity Coordinator – The Activity Coordinator is the person or group who has rented or is using HTPD Facilities for their activity or event. For example, this includes Affiliate Associations and User Groups (any non-HTPD group, organization, team, or individual using a District Field for organized use).
- III. All definition of terms from the HTPD Athletic Field / Facility Guide apply to this Weather Alert System Procedures Document.

WET-BULB GLOBE TEMPERATURE

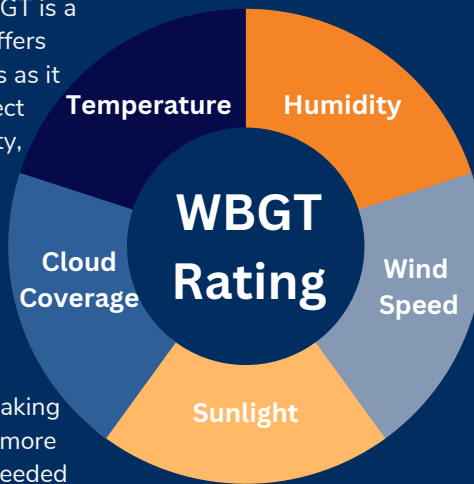
The IHSA By-Laws & Policies outline the procedure for handling excessive heat to align with the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature categories.



TIPS TO STAY SAFE

WHAT IS THE WET BULB GLOBE TEMPERATURE? AND WHY DO WE USE IT?

The Wet Bulb Globe, also known as WBGT is a Measurement of HEAT STRESS. This differs from other temperature and heat indexes as it significantly considers the impact of direct sunlight along with temperature, humidity, wind speed, sun angle and cloud cover (solar radiation). A reading of all these factors simultaneously makes up the WBGT rating at a specific time.



All of these factors effect athletes practicing and competing outdoors or in environments without air conditioning. Taking a measurement of these factors gives a more accurate understanding of precautions needed to stay safe.

WHO USES THE WBGT? MILITARY AGENCIES, OHSA, OUTDOOR INDUSTRY WORKERS, PROFESSIONAL AND HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS. OF COURSE, THE IHSA TOO.

This specific measurement isn't something your local weatherman or even weather app on your phone will tell you; however, athletic trainers & other professionals connected to your team will have the proper equipment to get this reading. What you should know is what these reading mean so when they are given to you, you know what to do:

BELOW 80 DOES NOT CALL FOR RESTRICTIONS
Normal Activities
Considered a healthy environment for athletes

DISCRETION NEEDED FOR INTENSE & PROLONGED EXERCISE
Frequent & regular water breaks are needed

MAXIMUM PRACTICE TIME OF 2 HOURS
20 minutes breaks are required throughout each hour of practice
No new contest can begin

MAXIMUM PRACTICE TIME OF 1 HOUR
20 minutes breaks are required throughout the hour
No protective equipment may be used and no conditioning may take place

NO OUTDOOR PRACTICES, WORKOUTS OR COMPETITIONS
Cancel, delay, and/or reschedule all outdoor events

1. DRINK LOTS OF WATER

Make sure to drink water before, during and after any activities

2. ADD ELECTROLYTES

Electrolytes help to hydrate the body and balance fluids in your body. Try drinks like Gatorade, Pedialyte, Liquid IV, and other drink with added electrolytes.

But remember, these do not replace water. Always drink water!

3. LISTEN TO YOUR BODY

No one knows how you're feeling better than you do! If you are starting to feel like you need a break or to cool down, say sometime and do it. Player safety always comes first.

4. WATCH FOR SYMPTOMS OF HEAT STRESS

Signs of heat stress are:

- Confusion/Irritability
- Headache
- Dizziness
- Weakness/cramping
- Elevated body temp. & excessive sweating
- Decreased urine output

5. LISTEN FOR CHANGES

Make sure to check emails, socials, texts, & website notifications for changes in practice and game schedules to accommodate for safer activity times.

6. LEARN MORE

Use the IHSA Sports Medicine webpage resource to find out more!

Sources:

IHSA. (2023). Managing heat and heat illness - Illinois high school association. IHSA Policies.

CDC. (2022, May 13). Heat stress related illness. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.CDC.gov/HeatStressandHeadIllness>

US National Weather Service (2019, January, 24). Wetbulb Globe Temperature. WetBulb Globe Temperature. <https://www.weather.gov/tsa/wbgt>

Readings should be taken 30 min prior to any practice and subsequently every 30 min for the duration of the event.

ATTENTION



LIGHTNING SAFETY



THIS FACILITY IS EQUIPPED WITH A WARNING SYSTEM

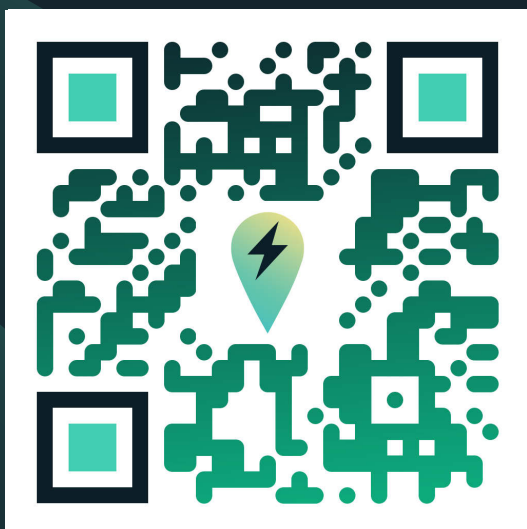
SEEK SHELTER

WHEN HORN SOUNDS AND LIGHT IS FLASHING



SCAN BELOW

FOR LIVE LIGHTNING AND WEATHER UPDATES



GASKINS CITY BASEBALL COMPLEX

ATTENTION



LIGHTNING SAFETY



THIS FACILITY IS EQUIPPED WITH A WARNING SYSTEM

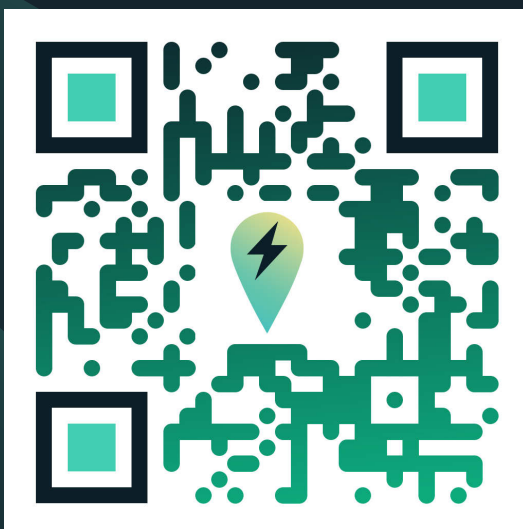
SEEK SHELTER

WHEN HORN SOUNDS AND LIGHT IS FLASHING



SCAN BELOW

FOR LIVE LIGHTNING AND WEATHER UPDATES



BILL RICE SOCCER COMPLEX

ATTENTION



LIGHTNING SAFETY



THIS FACILITY MONITORS LIGHTNING IN THE AREA

SEEK SHELTER

WHEN LIGHTNING IS DETECTED



SCAN BELOW

FOR LIVE LIGHTNING AND WEATHER UPDATES

