

# APPENDIX G

## BAD WEATHER PROCEDURE

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The following procedure should be followed by both clubs participating in Hockey Ireland Outdoor Competitions where bad weather is anticipated prior to or on match day that may **affect or disrupt travel** or the match itself.

Both clubs may have incurred costs related to the staging or travel and accommodation for the planned match date. To avoid /minimise any loss, every effort should be made to play the match on the date planned. Early and good communication and planning will support this objective.

Whilst it is accepted that no system of match postponement can be perfect, clubs are requested to try and ensure that matches are postponed in sufficient time for visiting teams and officials to be saved the time and expense of wasted journeys.

Tournaments are under the auspices of the Tournament Director who will make any decisions regarding Bad Weather.

## **2. BAD WEATHER FORECAST**

### **2.1 Weather Warnings**

A colour coding weather alert system is in place in both jurisdictions, providing early warning up to 60 hours ahead of adverse weather conditions expected. The alert is given a colour (yellow, orange, or red) depending on the combination of both the impact and the likelihood of those impacts occurring.

In all instances national weather warnings should be headed. Local warnings by county need to consider the match location AND the travel journey of the visiting club and the assigned Umpires and Officials.

### **2.2 Actions required when a Weather Warning in Place (more than 24 hours in advance)**

The two clubs need to commence communications once they are aware of a bad weather alert (any colour) being issued that may impact the up-coming match to establish the following:

- Travel plans for the visiting team (e.g. departure time)
- Travel plans for umpires and officials
- Any possible alternative arrangement that could be made early to ensure the match could proceed on the weekend planned, e.g.:
  - If swapping to an earlier /later start time would avoid the alert window?
  - If there is a frost warning and pitch conditions are likely to be the only issue, is there an alternative pitch that does not suffer the same which could be made available?
  - Could the match be played the next day?
- The options explored and dismissed should be noted by both clubs, should the information subsequently be requested by the Competition Outdoors SG.

- A decision on how to proceed should be agreed between the clubs.
- If a new date/time/venue is agreed then the home club must notify the Hockey Ireland Office, the umpires, the MTA (if appointed), copying the away club. The new match details must be communicated on social media platforms for spectators and media.

### **2.3 Uncertain Weather Conditions / Less than 24 hours before Match**

If there is a Yellow weather alert and /or conditions are likely to be localized or uncertain, both clubs should agree a plan the evening before or morning of the match, including:

- When a pitch inspection should take place, bearing in mind the travel departure times of the team, umpires and officials. By mutual agreement, the inspection can be arranged to occur during the travel time, giving every chance for the match to proceed should conditions such as a frozen pitch improve.
- Ensure that the Manager contact details for both clubs have been shared, so they can stay in touch
- The home club must advise the umpires and official of the plan and must arrange any inspections of the pitch
- It is recommended that, where possible, pitch inspections are performed in conjunction with either a locally based umpire or official affiliated to the Irish Hockey Umpires Association (IHUA) or Technical Officials Group.
- If a new time/venue can be agreed then the home club must notify the Hockey Ireland Office, the umpires, the MTA (if appointed), copying the away club to establish whether umpires and Officials can be provided. The new match details must be communicated on social media platforms for spectators and media

### **2.4 Match Start**

Once the teams and umpires are at the grounds, it is the responsibility of the umpires to decide whether the conditions (weather /pitch) are satisfactory for the match to proceed, unless an MTA has been appointed, in which case, the MTA decides.

### **2.5 Postponement Decision Made**

Where the clubs agree the match needs to be postponed either for travel or unplayable pitch conditions then the home club must notify the Hockey Ireland Office, the umpires, the MTA (if appointed), copying the away club. The postponement must be communicated on social media platforms for spectators and media. See the Club Outdoor Master Regulations for the subsequent steps to re-arrange a postponed match.

## **3. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THE BAD WEATHER PROCEDURE**

If the Outdoors SG is informed, either by another club, umpire or official that a club failed to follow the Hockey Ireland Bad Weather Procedure in full or part, then the Outdoors SG will investigate, and in line with the Clubs Outdoor Regulations (18.1) has at its discretion the right to impose any penalty, including, but not exclusively, the deduction of points, reversal of the fixture, monetary fine, contribution towards travelling costs of opposition, forfeiture of the match and power to make teams play matches away from their home venue.