

BASEBALL CANADA

OUTDOOR WEATHER AND AIR QUALITY SAFETY POLICY

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to provide clear, consistent and practical direction for managing weather and air-quality conditions that may affect the health and safety of individuals participating in or attending Baseball Canada activities.

The objectives of this Policy are to:

- a. protect athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, staff, host committees, spectators and other participants;
- b. establish consistent procedures for monitoring weather and air-quality conditions;
- c. provide clear criteria for modifying, delaying, postponing, suspending or cancelling outdoor activities;
- d. ensure decisions are based on recognized information and established criteria rather than individual judgment alone;
- e. establish clear authority and communication requirements; and
- f. support the safe resumption of activities after conditions improve.

2. Scope

This Policy applies to outdoor activities organized, operated or sanctioned by Baseball Canada, including:

- a. National Championships;
- b. national team activities;
- c. selection and development camps;
- d. practices and training sessions;
- e. clinics and educational activities;
- f. promotional and community events; and

g. any other outdoor activity over which Baseball Canada has operational or sanctioning authority.

Provincial, territorial, municipal, facility or event-specific requirements may impose a higher standard. Baseball Canada activities must not operate below the minimum requirements established in this Policy.

Indoor activities are generally excluded unless outdoor conditions affect indoor air quality, ventilation, temperature, access routes or the safety of the facility.

3. Guiding Principles

The following principles apply to all decisions under this Policy:

- a. Health and safety take priority over competition, scheduling, financial or operational considerations.
- b. Weather and air-quality conditions must be monitored before and throughout outdoor activities.
- c. The approved weather source must be used consistently throughout the activity or event.
- d. Children, older adults, individuals with medical conditions and other vulnerable participants may require additional precautions.
- e. Conditions at the activity location may be more severe than regional observations or forecasts.
- f. The absence of an official warning does not require an activity to continue when local conditions appear unsafe.
- g. When there is reasonable doubt about whether conditions are safe, the Baseball Canada Technical Commissioner must err on the side of caution.
- h. No individual should be required to remain active while experiencing signs or symptoms of heat- or air-quality-related illness.

4. Definitions

For the purposes of this Policy:

Activity means any event, competition, practice, training session, clinic, camp or other outdoor program covered by this Policy.

Air Quality Health Index or AQHI means the Canadian scale used to communicate the short-term health risks associated with air pollution.

Baseball Canada Technical Commissioner or TC means the Baseball Canada representative assigned to oversee the activity or event. The TC serves as the weather and safety lead and is the final decision-making authority for all weather- and air-quality-related decisions under this Policy.

Cancellation means a determination that an activity, activity period or day of activity cannot safely proceed or be completed.

Delay means a temporary interruption after which conditions will be reassessed.

Host Lead means the senior representative designated by the host committee or activity organizer.

Humidex means a measure combining air temperature and humidity to describe how hot the conditions feel. A Humidex reading is an index value and is not the same as the air temperature in degrees Celsius.

Modification means changing the time, duration, intensity, location, format or other conditions of an activity to reduce risk.

Postponement or Suspension means moving an activity to a later time or date because it cannot safely proceed as scheduled.

Primary Weather Source means the WeatherCAN app or website, or The Weather Network app or website, selected before the activity or event and used consistently for weather-related readings and decisions.

Suspension means stopping an activity that has already begun because conditions are or may become unsafe.

TC means Technical Commissioner or Technical lead

Umpire Supervisor means the individual designated to oversee the umpires assigned to the activity or event.

5. Roles, Responsibilities and Authority

5.1 Baseball Canada

Baseball Canada is responsible for:

- a. maintaining and reviewing this Policy;
- b. communicating the Policy to applicable hosts, teams, officials, staff and representatives;
- c. providing appropriate implementation guidance;
- d. assigning a TC to oversee the implementation of this Policy at the applicable activity or event; and
- e. reviewing significant incidents and decisions made under this Policy.

5.2 Baseball Canada Technical Commissioner

The TC is the weather and safety lead and the final decision-making authority for all weather- and air-quality-related matters at a Baseball Canada activity or event.

The TC is responsible for:

- a. selecting the Primary Weather Source that will be used;
- b. monitoring applicable forecasts, alerts, temperature, Humidex, AQHI readings and local conditions;
- c. confirming that the applicable Emergency Action Plan addresses lightning, thunder, extreme heat and poor air quality;
- d. determining when an action level or mandatory trigger under this Policy has been reached;
- e. directing any required modification, delay, postponement, suspension or cancellation;
- f. continuing to monitor conditions during a delay or suspension;
- g. determining when conditions meet the requirements for resumption;
- h. communicating decisions and required actions to the appropriate individuals; and
- i. issuing the official all-clear.

Before making a weather- or air-quality-related decision, the TC will consult with the Umpire Supervisor and Host Lead when they are available.

The TC may also consult with the Baseball Canada office and the first-aid or medical lead when their information or expertise is relevant.

Consultation is advisory and does not require consensus. Final responsibility for the decision remains with the TC.

The TC may order an immediate suspension without prior consultation when a mandatory trigger is reached or when delaying action could increase the risk to participants or others.

In the TC's absence, only a Baseball Canada representative specifically authorized to assume the TC's responsibilities may make decisions under this Policy.

6. Weather and Air-Quality Monitoring

6.1 Approved Information Sources

Before an activity or event begins, the TC must select one of the following as the Primary Weather Source:

- a. Environment and Climate Change Canada's WeatherCAN app or website; or
- b. The Weather Network app or website.

The location selected in the app or website must be the activity location or the nearest available reporting location.

The selected Primary Weather Source must be used consistently throughout the activity or event.

Where the Primary Weather Source becomes unavailable, the other approved source may be used.

Where the approved sources provide different readings, the more precautionary credible reading should be applied until the discrepancy is resolved.

Direct observations at the activity location, including audible thunder, visible lightning, smoke accumulation or participant symptoms, take priority when they indicate an immediate safety concern.

6.2 Monitoring Schedule

The TC must review weather and air-quality conditions:

- a. during advance event planning;
- b. the evening before each activity day;
- c. before participants arrive;
- d. at least 60 minutes before the first scheduled outdoor activity;
- e. at least 30 minutes before each subsequent activity;
- f. at least every 30 minutes when an elevated heat action level or official advisory is in effect;
- g. at the intervals established in the air-quality section of this Policy; and
- h. immediately when conditions change significantly.

Lightning conditions and thunderstorm alerts must be monitored continuously whenever thunderstorms are forecast or developing nearby.

7. Thunder and Lightning

7.1 Mandatory Suspension

Outdoor activity must be suspended immediately when:

- a. thunder is heard;
- b. lightning is seen;
- c. the Primary Weather Source indicates an imminent thunderstorm threat at the activity location; or

No outdoor activity may begin while any of these conditions are present.

The TC must be notified immediately when thunder is heard, lightning is seen. The activity must be stopped without waiting for consultation or further approval.

7.2 Resumption

Activity may resume only when:

- a. at least 30 minutes have passed since the last sound of thunder or sighting of lightning;
- b. each new sound of thunder, or sighting of lightning restarts the 30-minute waiting period;
- c. any applicable thunderstorm; and
- d. the TC has reassessed the conditions, approved resumption and issued the official all-clear.

8. Extreme Heat and Humidity

8.1 Measurement Standard

Air temperature and Humidex will be used as the operational measures for heat-related decisions.

Temperature and Humidex readings must be obtained from the Primary Weather Source using the activity location or nearest available reporting location.

Where air temperature and Humidex indicate different action levels, the higher level of precaution applies.

Humidex values must not be interpreted as air temperatures in degrees Celsius.

8.2 Heat-Monitoring Triggers

Temperature and Humidex must be checked when:

- a. the forecast Humidex is 35 or higher;
- b. the forecast air temperature is 30°C or higher;
- c. an official heat warning or advisory is in effect; or
- d. local conditions or participant symptoms indicate elevated heat risk.

When the Humidex is 40 or higher, temperature and Humidex must be checked at least every 30 minutes.

The current heat level must be communicated to:

- a. the TC;
- b. the Umpire Supervisor, if available;
- c. the Host Lead, if available;
- d. the first-aid or medical lead, where applicable; and
- e. participating teams or groups.

8.3 Heat Action Levels

Level	Humidex Value	Required Action
Level 1 – Normal	Below 35	Activity may proceed normally. Drinking water must be available.
Level 2 - Caution	35-39	Provide hydration reminders and monitor participants closely. Increase access to water, rest and shade.
Level 3 – High Caution	40-42	Mandatory cooling and hydration breaks at least every 30 minutes. Reduce warm-up and other non-essential outdoor activity. Provide shade near activity areas.
Level 4 – Suspension	43+	No outdoor activity may begin. Any outdoor activity in progress must be suspended immediately. Activity may resume only when the Humidex has dropped below 43, the air temperature is below 40°C, all required mitigation measures are in place, conditions have been reassessed, and the TC has issued the official all-clear.

If the air temperature reaches 35°C or higher, at least Level 3 applies even when the published Humidex value is below 40.

If the air temperature reaches 40°C or higher, Level 4 applies regardless of the published Humidex value.

8.4 Required Heat-Mitigation Measures

At Level 3:

- a. adequate drinking water must be available;

- b. shaded or cooled rest areas must be available near the activity area;
- c. hydration and cooling breaks must be incorporated into the activity;
- d. warm-up and other non-essential outdoor activity must be reduced;
- e. participants must be actively monitored for heat stress;
- f. the current heat level must be communicated before the activity begins; and
- g. individuals wearing protective equipment or experiencing prolonged direct-sun exposure must receive additional monitoring and opportunities to cool.

8.5 Resumption Following Heat Suspension

Following a Level 4 suspension, activity may resume only when:

- a. the Humidex value has dropped below 43;
- b. the air temperature has dropped below 40°C;
- c. the required mitigation measures are in place;
- d. the conditions have been reassessed using the Primary Weather Source and observations at the activity location; and
- e. the TC has approved resumption and issued the official all-clear.

A lower Humidex value or air temperature does not require an activity to resume when local conditions or participant well-being remain a concern.

9. Air Quality

9.1 Measurement Standard

The AQHI will be used as the operational measure of air-quality risk within Canada.

The AQHI must be obtained for the activity location or nearest available reporting location using:

- a. Environment and Climate Change Canada's WeatherCAN app or website; or
- b. The Weather Network app or website, where a current AQHI reading is available.

Where the Primary Weather Source does not provide a current AQHI reading, the Environment and Climate Change Canada AQHI service or applicable provincial air-quality service must be used.

For international activities where AQHI is unavailable, the locally recognized Air Quality Index may be used.

9.2 Air-Quality Action Levels

AQHI Risk Level	Required Action
1-3 Low	No action required
4-6 Moderate	No action required but monitor AQHI in the event it continues to rise
7-10 High	Essential baseball activity only and consider rescheduling games (i.e. no practices)
10+ Very High	No baseball activity

Smoke accumulation, participant symptoms or an inability to see the entire playing field may require suspension regardless of the reported AQHI.

9.3 Monitoring and Mitigation

When the AQHI is elevated (4-6 Moderate range):

- a. readings must be monitored at least hourly;
- b. readings must be monitored every 30 minutes when conditions are changing rapidly;
- c. relevant readings must be reported to the TC;
- d. individuals with asthma, respiratory conditions, cardiovascular conditions or other relevant medical concerns must be advised of the elevated risk;
- e. participants experiencing coughing, dizziness, shortness of breath, chest discomfort or unusual fatigue must stop activity and report to first aid;
- f. indoor or cleaner-air alternatives should be used where available; and
- g. the current AQHI and required actions must be communicated.

The TC will determine whether an activity will be modified, postponed, relocated, suspended or cancelled after consulting with the Umpire Supervisor and Host Lead, if available.

10. Communication Requirements

Before an activity begins, the TC must ensure that the following information is communicated, as applicable:

- a. the conditions that may result in modification, suspension, postponement or cancellation;
- b. how updates will be provided; and
- c. that the TC is responsible for weather and air-quality decisions and for issuing the official all-clear.

During an elevated action level, the current condition and required mitigation measures must be communicated to relevant participants and officials.

Only the TC, or a Baseball Canada representative specifically authorized to act in the TC's absence, may issue the official all-clear.

11. Weather- and Air-Quality-Related Illness and Emergency Response

Any person displaying signs of serious heat- or air-quality-related illness must be removed from activity immediately.

Warning signs may include:

- confusion or unusual behaviour;
- dizziness or fainting;
- loss of coordination;
- nausea or vomiting;
- severe headache;
- breathing difficulty;
- chest discomfort;
- extreme thirst;
- cessation of sweating;
- hot, red or dry skin; and
- collapse.

Suspected heat stroke, serious breathing distress or lightning injury is a medical emergency.

Emergency medical services must be contacted immediately when a serious medical condition is suspected. Appropriate first aid and active cooling must begin as quickly as possible without delaying emergency response.

The TC must be notified of any weather- or air-quality-related medical incident as soon as reasonably possible.

12. Review

This Policy will be reviewed:

- a. annually;
- b. following any serious weather- or air-quality-related medical or safety incident;
- c. when government, medical or sport-safety guidance changes materially;
- d. following significant implementation concerns raised by hosts, provinces, officials or participants; and
- e. when the approved weather applications or measurement standards change materially.

The annual review should include consideration of:

- a. whether WeatherCAN and The Weather Network continue to provide reliable location-specific information;
- b. whether the heat and air-quality thresholds remain appropriate;
- c. whether the monitoring and consultation requirements are practical and consistently applied; and
- d. whether additional education, tools or training are required for TCs, Umpire Supervisors, Host Leads or other responsible individuals.