

Weather Ready Checklist: Sport Recreation League

I. Getting Started: Initial Tasks

- Organize a dedicated Weather Watch Team.
 - The team will monitor for developing weather threats specific to outdoor recreations (some times days in advance) and communicate potential hazards with planners, coaches, umpires and other personnel.
 - The team will train umpires and coaches to be the “eyes and ears” on the ground during games.
 - Designate at least two individuals who will be responsible for maintaining ‘Weather Ready’ recognition and documentation.
 - Become familiar with the National Weather Service ‘Weather Ready’ program.
 - Review: “[Being Weather Ready](#)”
 - Review: “[Be a Force of Nature](#)” from the Weather Ready Nation (WRN) website.
 - Watch: [Introduction to the NWS Baltimore/Washington Office](#) – 4 minute video.

II. The Emergency Response and Preparation Plan

- Incorporate hazardous weather into response and preparation plans.
 - Develop a daily weather check. Share any potential for dangerous weather with your staff. Monitor NWS Sterling Emergency Manager Webpage ([link](#)) which includes a daily Hazardous Weather Outlook.
- Catalog a list of response thresholds for different types of dangerous weather including:
 - Severe thunderstorms / tornadoes / high winds/heat.
 - i.e...What is the response if a severe thunderstorm with a history of producing 65 mph winds is heading for the outdoor event? Is there a shelter or place of evacuation for the public?
i.e...What is the response if a Tornado warning is issued for the area?
i.e...What is the response when the heat index climbs to 105 during scheduled games?
- Make print and electronic copies of the response and preparation plans available to participants.
- Recommended practices:
 - Hand out weather safety cards or brochures to increase participant awareness to dangerous weather including lightning.
 - Print out the mock hazardous weather table top exercise for outdoor recreations and simulate this with all personnel. Practice all preparation and response actions at least once per year – preferably leading into the warm season.
 - Perform a weather readiness drill with participants prior to the warm season.

III. Weather Observation and Warning Reception

- Have multiple ways of receiving weather forecasts and warnings.
 - NOAA weather radio.
 - Bookmarked list of weather Internet sites including www.weather.gov/washington.

- Text alerting system, email distribution lists.
- Battery powered AM / FM radio.
- Have 24 x 7 weather monitoring capability; or a continuous monitoring plan when staffed.
- Recommended:
 - Acquire a smart phone app to receive NWS Watches/Warnings and Advisories.

IV. **Communication or Dissemination of Weather Warnings**

- Define the flow of weather information from the weather monitor team.
- Demonstrate multiple ways of communicating / disseminating important weather information (including warnings). Can include:
 - Public announcement (PA)
 - Text alerting system
 - Message scrolling
 - Phone calls / phone tree and/or mouth-to-mouth (runner)
 - Email lists

V. **Maintaining Weather Ready Status**

- Weather Watch Team should perform the following annually:
 - Review Weather Ready documentation and training materials to ensure preparedness for hazardous weather throughout the organization.
 - Ensure all new staff is trained in hazardous weather threats and plans.
 - Ensure severe weather preparedness and response plans are current.
 - Maintain and update a relevant list of weather web sites.
 - Conduct organization-wide severe weather tabletop exercise to practice your weather threat response plans.
 - Update all contact lists, phone number and email lists.

VI. **Weather Ready Nation Ambassador (optional)**

If you would like to be recognized for your efforts in spreading National Weather Service messages for weather readiness you can apply to be a **Weather Ready Nation Ambassador** to help us spread weather readiness & help build a truly weather ready nation. ([click here](#))