

<b>PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION POLICY</b>	
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>Weather Guidelines for Activities Held at County Facilities</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE NUMBER</b>	
<b>ORIGINAL EFFECTIVE DATE</b>	<b>July 1, 2013; July 2019</b>
<b>REVISION DATE</b>	<b>January 2026</b>
<b>HISTORICAL REFERENCE</b>	
<b>AUTHORIZED BY</b>	

### **Purpose**

To establish guidelines and policies for the cancellation of programs and facilities using County school and park facilities due to weather events.

### **Guidelines**

York County Parks and Recreation reserves the right to cancel any program or close any County facility due to inclement weather. Parks and Recreation will make every effort to make decisions in a timely manner; however, because weather patterns are unpredictable, some decisions will have to be made on-site during the weather event. When adverse weather conditions occur, Parks and Recreation programs and facilities may be affected. These conditions may require adjustments and cancellation of programs, events, classes, practices, games, tournaments, or facility rentals at County parks or school facilities. Programs and games are sometimes held in weather conditions (rain, snow, heat, cold, wind) that are not ideal when the field conditions are not affected. Parents and participants are responsible for making individual decisions whether they or their children should participate when outdoor conditions become a concern, even if the program/game is not cancelled. All decisions made by the County are final. The guidelines below will be used to determine the cancellation status of programs or the closing of facilities.

### **York County Government (Weather events)**

1. If the County of York Government Offices are closed for business:  
All Parks and Recreation programs, classes, events, and rentals are cancelled.
2. If the County of York Government Offices are closed early for business:  
All Parks and Recreation programs, classes, events, and rentals are cancelled.
3. If the County of York Government Offices open late for business:  
All Parks and Recreation programs, classes, events, and rentals scheduled to begin after the delayed opening will proceed as scheduled. If the classes, events, or a rental were scheduled to begin before the delayed opening, they will be cancelled or delayed.

## **York County School Division (Weather events)**

1. If the York County School Division is closed for classes:  
All Parks and Recreation programs, classes, events, and rentals are cancelled.
2. If the York County School Division classes open late:  
All Parks and Recreation programs, classes, events, and rentals scheduled to begin after the delayed opening will proceed as scheduled. If the classes, events, or rentals were scheduled to begin before the delayed opening, they will be cancelled or delayed.
3. If the York County School Division closes early:  
All Parks and Recreation programs, classes, events, and rentals are cancelled.
4. If the York County School Division cancels after-school activities:  
All Parks and Recreation programs, classes, events, and rentals are cancelled.

## **Non-School Days**

In the event of inclement weather, when York County School Division classes are not in session:

The Parks and Recreation Division reserves the right to cancel programs or close facilities if weather conditions deteriorate. These decisions will be based on individual facilities and programs. This decision will be communicated through our RainoutLine (757-890-3501).

## **Extended Weather Events**

In the event of inclement weather where the conditions are extended over several days or where conditions vary throughout the County:

The Parks and Recreation Division reserves the right to cancel programs or close facilities, depending on the individual facility and program. This will allow the resumption of activities and opening of facilities as the conditions improve. This decision will be communicated through our RainoutLine (757-890-3501).

Parks and facilities may be closed in advance of weather events to allow for storm preparation. Parks and facilities will remain closed until they are inspected, cleaned up, and deemed safe for the public to use.

## **Ball Field Cancellations (Tournaments, Games, and Practices)**

The Division reserves the right to delay or cancel any event at any time due to inclement weather or any condition deemed detrimental to the facility or public safety. When a cancellation is issued, permit holders are not permitted to use the fields.

Parks and Recreation staff will evaluate field conditions prior to scheduled sporting events and throughout activities to ensure fields remain safe and playable. Decisions will be based on field conditions, weather impacts, and the potential for turf or facility damage.

Examples of conditions that may require the delay or cancellation of scheduled activities include, but are not limited to:

1. Standing water or puddles on the field
2. Unsafe or slippery footing
3. Waterlogged or saturated ground
4. Turf that can be easily displaced
5. Frost, snow, sleet, or freezing rain

Decisions made by the County on the playability of the fields are final. Updates will be made to our RainoutLine (757-890-3501) by 2:00 pm on weekdays and 7:00 am on weekends. Should adverse weather conditions exist after the set time, the Rainout Line will be updated.

**NOTE:** Organizations that do not cancel activities and cause damage may have their permit revoked immediately, be responsible for reimbursing the County for the cost to repair the damage, and may have their future use of County facilities denied.

### **Gymnasium/Indoor Facility Cancellations (Games, Practices, Events)**

The Division reserves the right to cancel an event at any time due to inclement weather or any other condition deemed unsafe either for the facility or public safety traveling to the facility.

### **Lightning/Thunder**

In the event of lightning or thunder and/or an alert by the Perry Weather Station, the Division requires that all patrons retreat to their vehicles or move inside a nearby building. Congregating in tents, dugouts, or picnic shelters is prohibited when lightning is present. Activities will be suspended until there is no lightning or thunder for 30 minutes. Each new occurrence of lightning or thunder will restart the 30-minute suspension.

### **Heat**

If the heat index is 105 degrees or higher, all outdoor youth Parks and Recreation activities will be cancelled or moved to an indoor location, if possible.

If the heat index is below 105 degrees, judgment will be made based on various program factors, including activity level, type of activity, age of participants, availability of water and shade, etc.

## **Specifics for Facilities and Programs**

### **Notification**

In the event of adverse weather, staff will decide on program and activity cancellations, and that information will be posted on the appropriate Rainout Line extension and sent through RecTrac and/or Quickscores. Decisions regarding weekday cancellations due to weather conditions are made by 2:00 p.m. and weekend decisions by 7:00 a.m. Cancellations after these times will be made at the event/activity site. Messages cannot be left on these lines. They are only used to announce information about activity status. To find out the status of a program or activity, call the appropriate number listed below and choose the correct extension:

**RAINOUTLINE PHONE NUMBER:** 757-890-3501

**RAINOUTLINE WEBSITE ADDRESS:** [www.rainoutline.com/search/dnis/7578903501](http://www.rainoutline.com/search/dnis/7578903501)