



Guam Football Association Weather Policy

Rain or Shine

Unless otherwise determined by the specific program director overseeing your athlete's program, all events will proceed regardless of weather changes. The only consideration that may be necessary is excessive rain which may cause hazardous driving conditions throughout different parts of the island reroute to the GFA National Training Center. Secondly, what may seem fine up in the northern part of the island may not be fine in southern part of the island and vice versa. Effective communications to direct and indirect parties should be made no less than 1.5 hour before the event. There are times that weather changes quickly and notifications cannot be made in timely manner but due diligence will be made.

The artificial pitch is designed with an efficient drainage system. There may be times where a heavy rainfall will occur and flooding of the pitch will take place. Typically, once the heavy rain ceases, the pitch takes approximately 10-15 minutes to drain.

If training/games are held during a heavy rainfall, consideration must be taken for the safety of the players as well as the damage to the field. If it is during training, the coach should make a conscious decision to continue or suspend for the well-being of the players and to minimize the damages to the field. If it is during a match, the referee will make the determination if the match will be suspended and follow the force majeure guidelines outlined in said regulations. If none is stated, the referee may abandon the match as unplayable and communicate this as soon as possible to the proper channels.

Communications may be disseminated via PowerUp mass mail, GFA Website Calendar post, and/or Whatsapp messaging.

Lightning

Unless otherwise determined by the specific program director overseeing your athlete's program, all events will proceed regardless of weather changes.

Each team coach is directly the responsible person for the safety of the group of athletes they have care over and must act accordingly in adverse weather conditions to protect every player from harm.





Lightning can strike up to ten (10) miles away from any direction. The rule of thumb used for safety is a six (6) mile distance. GFA shall apply the 30-30 rule.

Since sound travels at about 5 seconds per mile, a 30-second count means lightning has struck within six (6) miles of you. That is within the striking distance of lightning. If less than 30 seconds elapses between the lightning flash and the sound of its thunder, everyone needs to seek shelter immediately.

After you see lightning, start counting to 30. If you hear thunder before you reach 30, coaches will instruct all athletes to seek shelter in covered facilities or in cars appropriate and available. Activities may resume once 30 minutes have passed from the final lightning strike within the 10 mile radius. The coaches will use best judgement on resuming activity.

Always use common sense when it comes to weather risk. Though the technology solutions available to all coaches are very good tools, they are not 100% foolproof. If you see lightning and/or hear thunder, and your weather app does not match what you are observing, again, err on the side of caution and seek shelter.

Extreme Wind

During windy weather, any training/games can still be played only on the condition that the goals and portable technical benches are anchored properly. The anchor mechanism can be sandbags. The proper placement of sandbags on the portable goals is very crucial to assure it distributes the weight on the appropriate side of the frame. Every person on the pitch should take a moment to ensure that the goals and sandbags are properly placed before any training/games are started.

For pitches with permanent goals, there should be no concerns for anchoring the goals but ensure that any portable goals that are staged around the pitch are 'faced' down.

Hot Weather Policy

The risk of heat related illness from vigorous sports activity increases with the temperature. The body generates heat which cannot be dissipated readily when the ambient temperature exceeds 85 degrees F, depending upon the humidity. Hot weather is considered at any point where the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) readings at -90, and 60 minutes prior to the international official match. If the WBGT readings are 32 degrees Celsius and above (89.6 degrees in Fahrenheit), cooling breaks may be





introduced after consultation with the GFA General Coordinator/Match Commissioner and the Referee. This information must be communicated to each participating team.

If the WBGT readings are below 89.6 degrees Fahrenheit, it is considered Normal Play and regular hydration patterns resume (water break at half time only).

If the WBGT readings are above 89.6, degrees Fahrenheit, the following mandatory water break times will prevail and shall comprise of 3 minutes water break. During regular match, there will be no added time for said water break except for Play-offs.

<u>Match duration:</u>	<u>Estimated Break 1</u>	<u>Estimated Break 2</u>
90 Minutes	30 th	75 th
80 Minutes	20 th	40 th
60 Minutes	15 th	15 th

Note: The Competition Regulations for the said league will outline the protocols for 'water break'. The Competition Regulations will prevail over this policy if the language is different.

Under GFA Competition, these stoppage times are not added to match duration except for Play-offs only. During this stoppage time, athletes and referees may rehydrate and cool themselves with cold towels (if provided by the team).

Cancellation/Postponement Policy

Guam Football Association may postpone or cancel any soccer league, practice, event, tournament, or camp at its sole discretion. We will use reasonable efforts to reschedule any cancelled or postponed programs within a reasonable timeframe within the same season, but no guarantees are made.





Guam Typhoon Guidelines

There are four typhoon conditions which is followed by Guam Homeland Security.

- Condition IV: Guam is always in Condition IV. A typhoon may develop and hit the island within 72 hours.
- Condition III: A typhoon may possibly hit the island within 48 hours.
- Condition II: A typhoon is expected to hit the island within 24 hours.
- Condition I: A typhoon is expected to hit the island within 12 hours

When Guam is classified as Condition of Readiness (COR) 2, Guam Football Association will start securing the facilities. Any training/games cancellations, scheduled for the current day will be communicated to the respective teams/coaches and clubs.

Force Majeure

Clubs shall not be liable or responsible for refunds for failure, cancellation, suspension, postponement, delay, or shortening in services resulting from a Force Majeure Event, inclusive of causes beyond it's reasonable control, including, but not limited to: acts of God; field closures; labor disputes; equipment failure; war; terrorism; riot; acts of civil or military authorities; epidemics; pandemics; floods; fires; unusual severe weather conditions; accidents; or other contingencies the non-occurrence of which was a basic assumption on which the registration was made.

Absence of Automatic Weather Detection Technology at Facility

GFA Executive Director has access to the Clime: NOAA Weather Radar Live phone application, a fee-for-service adverse weather detection phone application that provides lightning, adverse weather condition detection, and forecast in Guam region.

GFA Management will assist in providing information as necessary. Should GFA decides to suspend all activities

This policy is primarily written to address typical weather conditions as that is the most prevalent safety risk that occurs in Guam. However, if any other conditions arises such as air quality hazard (volcanic ash) or any other weather event, that may endanger athletes, occurs, please consult with the Guam Football Association via main office: 671-637-4321 and apply common sense for assuring the safety of all athletes.

