



Weather Policy

FOR RECREATION FACILITIES

To provide consistent and uniform guidelines for creating awareness and guidance to staff and participants regarding inclement weather that may impact the health, safety and well-being of staff, volunteers, participants, and facilities.

GUIDELINES FOR RECREATION FACILITIES

The following guidelines are recommended for recreation sponsored activities, leagues, tournaments, and special events in the event of inclement weather.

The Recreation & Parks Department has the right to close facilities and/or cancel/postpone or relocate activities at Recreation facilities for public safety in the event of any storm warnings issued by the National Weather Service, Public Safety, or the Recreation & Parks Department for any tornadoes, hurricanes or other severe storms.

Cancellations, postponements and relocation of activities will be done in a timely manner.

Sponsored activities will be canceled/postponed a minimum of thirty minutes to one hour prior to the scheduled play time depending on the type of activity. Emergency alert warnings may require prompt cancellations.

NOTIFICATION PROCESS

Depending on the type of weather event and impact, staff will communicate via email, word of mouth, posting on the website, or other media sources regarding any cancellation/postponing information. Weather conditions and the type of facility may vary from center to center in The Villages community.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Inclement weather is defined as rain, wind, lightning and/or severe conditions (tornado, hurricane, thunderstorm watch/warnings) that compromise the safety of the participants, staff, volunteers and/or the condition of the facility.

In the event of inclement weather, the Recreation & Parks Department recommends patrons at outdoor recreation areas find shelter and wait at least 30 minutes or longer prior to resuming safe, normal activities as deemed advisable by a Public Safety or National Weather Service Advisory.

WEATHER TEMPERATURE

Cancellations/postponements related to temperature.

Temperature Guidelines

- Outside temperature of 35 degrees or lower.
- Outside temperature with a heat index of 104 degrees or higher.

Protocol

- District Staff will monitor weather conditions through various media sources that include, but are not limited to, WVVG and wunderground.com (La Zamora station).



- District Staff (on-site recreation staff i.e. athletic/recreation assistant) will receive direction from the department manager or supervisor if a cancellation/postponements process is recommended based on the above guidelines.

Process

- District Staff (on-site recreation staff i.e. athletic/recreation assistant) will notify activity representatives and/or participants via phone and/or in person that the recreation sponsored event(s) is recommended to be canceled/postponed until further notice.
- District staff will notify activity representatives when the temperature allows for safe conditions and whether the event(s) may continue.

FUNSHINE BINGO

Funshine Bingo will be canceled 30 minutes prior to the start time of the bingo cards being sold based on the following:

- Outside temperature of 50 degrees or lower
- Outside temperature with a heat index of 104 degrees or higher.
- Rain, wind, lightning and/or severe conditions (tornado, hurricane, thunderstorm watch/warnings) that compromise the safety of the participants or the condition of the facility.

SWIMMING POOLS

- Recreation staff will be in charge of Family & Sports Pools that are on-site
- Neighborhood Adult pools off site and other outdoor recreation areas will be self-monitored.
- For those pools scheduled for 90 minute pool checks, staff is to clear the swimming pool and wait the allotted 30 minutes for the weather to clear. If the weather does not clear, staff is to notify their manager and leave.
- Recreation staff and Community Watch staff who are in the area during inclement weather will use their best judgment to encourage and inform patrons to leave the pool or outdoor recreation areas if they deem necessary.
- If pool temperatures drop below 81 degrees, a sign will be posted at the entrance of the pool informing residents of the temperature change. The pool will remain open.

Cancellations will occur for the following reasons:

- Outside temperature of 35 degrees or lower.
- Rain, wind, lightning and/or severe conditions (tornado, hurricane, thunderstorm watch/warnings) that compromise the safety of the participants or the condition of the facility.



LAKE SUMTER LINE – BOAT TOURS, PONTOON BOAT TOURS, FISHING EXCURSIONS AND KAYAKING

Cancellations due to inclement weather will be made by the Recreation staff in charge of the boats an hour prior to the first scheduled trip.

Cancellations will occur for the following reasons:

Air Temperature Policy

- If the forecast temperature for 12:00 noon will be below 50°F, operations will be canceled.
- If the forecast temperature for 12:00 noon will be between 50°F and 55°F, the decision to cancel will be at the discretion of the scheduled Captains.
- During summer, if the forecast heat index for 12:00 noon will be 95° or higher, operations will be canceled.
- If the decision is to cancel operations, all scheduled crew are to be advised no later than 60 minutes prior to the scheduled start time (earlier if possible).

Inclement Weather Policy

- If medium winds are present (10-16 mph), boats may operate at Captain's discretion. (Wind speed measurements are approximate based on the best available information.)
- If high winds are present (above 17 mph), operations will be suspended.
- If very high winds (above 50 mph) are forecast, boats are to be retied in a "sprung out" format to avoid contact with the dock and/or sea wall.
- Rain, wind, lightning and/or severe conditions (tornado, hurricane, thunderstorm watch/warnings) that compromise the safety of patrons, staff and the conditions of boats and docks.

OPEN PLAY & RESIDENT SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

Participants assume full responsibility for any risk of bodily injury arising out of, or in any way connected with, participation or involvement in, or presence at, the activity or program. For the safety and well-being of the public, the Recreation & Parks Department may close facilities at any time due to weather conditions.

Rain Delays

- If it is raining before the start of play but stops before the scheduled play time, play will continue as planned if the fields/courts are deemed playable. If rain continues to fall during the scheduled play time, recreation staff/volunteers may declare a rain delay. After a reasonable amount of time, staff will decide whether the weather has improved and will be suitable for play or if the activity should be declared a rain out.

Inside Facilities

- Will be closed as directed by the Director of Recreation.

DISCLAIMER

If at any time facility/field conditions or weather conditions are deemed unsafe, the Recreation & Parks Department reserves the right to cancel or postpone any activity. At all times participants play at their own risk.

For further information and complete activity schedules please visit DistrictGov.org, check the Recreation Publication, the bulletin boards at each facility, or call your nearest Recreation Center.