



09 May 2025

## AIR QUALITY MONITORING & INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

*re: A guideline for rugby administration and match officials for assessing inclement weather and/or air quality*

### PURPOSE:

To provide guidelines for determining the viability of matches and training affected by inclement weather (i.e. lightning) and poor air quality

### LIGHTNING

Please review the [World Rugby Lightning Safety Guideline](#). Should there be lightning and thunder during matches or training, the 30/30 rule will be used to ensure participant and spectator safety:

#### **30/30 Rule**

- Shelter should be sought when there are 30 seconds or less between the flash and the associated thunder clap.
- Players may return to the field of play a minimum of 30 minutes after the final flash of lightning or clap of thunder has been seen/heard.
- If lightning persists the Match shall be Abandoned.

### MATCHES AFFECTED BY POOR AIR QUALITY

A single email will be issued to Club executives regarding matches that may be affected by Poor Air Quality. After this, live Air Quality Match Updates will be provided on the ERU website only. Teams are expected to monitor match status on the website.

#### **Games outside of Edmonton and Area - Cold Lake, Edson, Grande Prairie, Fort McMurray, Drayton Valley, Lloydminster, Red Deer, & Calgary**

- Using all available forecasts, the teams involved are to discuss at 72 hours, 48 hours and lastly at 24 hours, whether or not the game should proceed.
- All emails between the teams must be cc'd to [info@edmontonrugby.com](mailto:info@edmontonrugby.com)
- Notification on cancellation of an out of town fixture should be made no later than 3pm on the day preceding the match. However, in some instances notice may occur the day of the match. In such cases, match updates will be provided on the website as well as by Email.

#### **Games within Edmonton and Area between teams from said area - Edmonton, St Albert, Sherwood Park, Stony Plain, & Leduc.**

- The decision to cancel a match will be posted on the ERU website at least 60-min prior to kickoff.
- Should no communication be provided, teams are to show up prepared to play and must consult with the match official and their opponent prior to kick off to determine the match status using the *Air Quality Monitoring Decision Tree* below.



EDMONTON RUGBY UNION

When games are cancelled teams are to confirm a reschedule date ensuring all emails are cc'd to [info@edmontonrugby.com](mailto:info@edmontonrugby.com). A reschedule date must be submitted to the ERU within 72hr of the match cancellation.

## ABANDONED MATCHES

Matches that have commenced may be abruptly halted and abandoned due to sudden and dramatic weather or air quality changes (e.g. sudden smoke event caused by wind direction change, thunder storms, etc.

- If 50% or more of game has occurred, the score at the time of the match abandonment shall be recorded as the final score
- If less than 50% has occurred, the game shall be rescheduled and be replayed in full beginning at 0-0. *Note: This does not apply to Festivals. If Festival matches are abandoned they shall not be rescheduled.*

## Air Quality Monitoring Decision Tree

1. Navigate to <https://airquality.alberta.ca/map/> for the most accurate information

2. Make a decision using the Air Quality Rating Decision tree:

**5 or lower** ✓

Matches & Training to continue as normal

**6 – 7** ⚠

**Training** - reduced intensity & duration, provide additional rest periods

**70-min & 80-min matches** - reduced to 60 minutes, played in increments of 15-min quarters

**50-min & 60-min matches** - reduced to 40 minutes, played in increments of 10-min quarters

**30-min & 40-min matches** - reduced to 20 minutes, played in increments of 10-min halves

**20-min matches** - reduced to 14 minutes, played in increments of 7-min halves

**14-min matches** - reduced to 10 minutes, played in increments of 5-min halves

**Mini Festivals (U5 – U11)** - all matches reduced to half of normal length (i.e. 15-min single games reduced to 7.5-min single game; 20-minute matches of 2×10-min halves reduced to 10-min matches of 2×5-min halves)

**8** ⚡

Training to be held indoors or cancelled.

If 8+ 60-min prior to kick off, the match is to be abandoned. Should there be a sudden change in air quality rating such that the most current AQHI is 8+ the match is delayed by 30min, after this the air quality remains 8+ the match is to be abandoned.

**9+** ⚡ **All training and matches cancelled**

## CONCLUSION:

The Air Quality and Inclement Weather Policy is to be implemented across all competition levels and age grades.