



### **Weather / Air Quality / Match Cancellation Protocol**

The weather in Manitoba can be quite unpredictable at times. We have implemented a protocol when dealing with less-than-ideal weather for the outdoor season.

If the forecast predicts poor air quality, high humidity, rain, thunder-showers, snow, sleet, hail, (or anything else adverse), Rugby Manitoba will inform everyone know that we're monitoring the weather via email and Instagram.

**A decision will be posted and communicated from the league convenors via email to all teams involved 4 hours prior to scheduled KO time. Unless you have received notice that a match has been cancelled, or it has been broadcasted by Rugby Manitoba through its social media channel and email, all teams and match officials should otherwise arrive ready to play.**

**If matches are to be played as scheduled, only the match official has the authority to abandon the match at the field should it be deemed unplayable or abandoned for adverse weather conditions. Match Officials have the final jurisdiction to abandon any match should conditions change closer to kick off in the best interest of player welfare.**

The Rugby Manitoba Guidelines are consistent with both the World Rugby and Rugby Canada Guidelines, as well as the Rugby Manitoba 2025 Rules of Competition.

### **As it relates to thunder/lightning, humidity, and air quality, please follow the below guidelines:**

1. [Thunder/Lightning](#) - If you can hear thunder or see lightning, seek immediate safety indoors - "When thunder roars, go indoors." After seeing lightning or hearing thunder, **wait at least 30 minutes** after hearing the **last** clap of thunder or flash of lightning before returning to the field. At some point, the match may be abandoned due to insufficient time to finish the match. If this occurs, the referee should inform Rugby Manitoba convenors immediately, so the outcome of the match can be determined.
2. [Humidity](#) - For a Humidex value of...
  - **30-34:** Games will proceed as scheduled. A water break during each half may be allowed.
  - **35-39:** Rugby Manitoba may consider delaying kick-off or rescheduling the match. If Rigby Manitoba decides to go ahead with its scheduled matches, multiple water breaks will be permitted during the course of each half of play (additional time shall be added by the match official).
  - **40+:** All matches will be cancelled and rescheduled.

*We gratefully acknowledge that Rugby Manitoba Head Office is located on the original lands of the Anishinaabeg, Ininewuk, Anisininewuk, Dakota Oyate and Denesuline, and in the National Homeland of the Red River Métis. We further acknowledge that our water in Winnipeg is sourced from Treaty 3 Territory of Shoal Lake 40 First Nation. We respect the Treaties that were made on these territories, acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and are dedicated to moving forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration. We are all Treaty people.*



3. [Air Quality](#) - For an Environment Canada Air Quality Index of:
- **1-3:** Continue playing as normal.
  - **4-6:** Reducing the duration of the match and/or providing extra breaks and/or rests.
  - **7+:** Rugby Manitoba League Convenors will reschedule the match to a different date or find alternative indoor facilities to play.

This protocol applies to all Rugby Manitoba sanctioned matches at all Age Grades from Rookie Rugby Jamborees, through to Senior matches.

This protocol is in effect immediately as of June 6, 2025.

#### **Checking Current Weather Conditions:**

Rugby Manitoba will consider the official Environment Canada forecast numbers as the conditions to base decisions on.

[Current conditions can be checked here](#). Please enter your match location (city) in the box in the top right-hand side for the exact Air Quality Index rating in your local area.

World Rugby Player Welfare Guidelines: <https://www.world.rugby/the-game/player-welfare/guidelines>

If you have any questions about this, please contact us at [mru@rugbymb.ca](mailto:mru@rugbymb.ca).