



## **Inclement Weather Policy**

### **Aligned with Ontario Soccer & Canada Soccer Standards**

#### **1. Purpose**

The Bryst Inclement Weather Policy ensures all outdoor and indoor soccer activities are conducted safely and responsibly during adverse weather conditions. This policy aligns with:

- **Ontario Soccer Weather & Safety Guidelines**
- **Canada Soccer Safety Standards & Risk Management Framework**

The safety of players, coaches, referees, volunteers, and families is the top priority.

#### **2. Guiding Principles**

Bryst follows the core standards established by Ontario Soccer and Canada Soccer:

- **Safety first** in all decisions
- **Consistency** in the application of weather-related protocols
- **Clear communication** with all participants
- **Immediate action** when unsafe conditions arise

#### **3. Weather Conditions Covered**

This policy applies to:

- Thunderstorms and lightning
- Extreme heat or humidity
- Poor air quality

- Heavy rain, flooding, or unplayable field conditions
- Snow, freezing rain, and ice hazards
- High winds affecting equipment or field structures

#### 4. Lightning & Thunderstorm Protocol

Bryst follows the **Ontario Soccer Lightning Safety Policy**:

- **Immediate stoppage** of all play at the first sound of thunder or sight of lightning.
- All participants must seek safe shelter (vehicles or solid buildings).
- **30/30 Rule:** Wait **30 minutes** after the last sound of thunder or visible lightning before resuming play.
- Fields must remain cleared until officially deemed safe.

#### 5. Extreme Heat & Humidity Protocol

Following Ontario Soccer and Canada Soccer safe heat guidelines:

- Mandatory hydration breaks during **humidex or extreme heat alerts**.
- Activities may be modified, shortened, or cancelled based on conditions.
- Coaches monitor for signs of heat stress (dizziness, nausea, excessive fatigue).
- Younger age groups require stricter heat management.

#### 6. Air Quality Protocol

- Activities will be modified or suspended when air quality reaches unsafe levels.
- Bryst follows Government of Canada Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) standards.
- High-risk populations (youth, asthmatics) must be monitored closely.

#### 7. Heavy Rain, Field Conditions & Flooding

- Excessive rain, standing water, or unsafe turf conditions may result in delays or cancellations.
- Only authorized staff or officials may determine if a field is **unplayable**.
- Indoor turf must be monitored for slipping hazards during wet conditions.

## **8. Snow, Ice & Winter Hazards**

- Outdoor activities may be cancelled if snow accumulation or ice poses a safety risk.
- Indoor facility entrances, walkways, and turf must be kept clear of snow, ice, and slush.
- Staff follow Bryst safety procedures for salting, shoveling, and hazard management.

## **9. High Wind Safety**

- Activities must stop if winds make equipment (nets, goals, corner flags) unsafe.
- Move participants away from unsecured structures.
- Portable goals must always be anchored.

## **10. Decision-Making Authority**

The following individuals may suspend, delay, or cancel activities:

- Bryst Technical Directors or designated club staff
- Ontario Soccer match officials
- Facility supervisors (for indoor programs)

Decisions will be made based on safety and risk assessment.

## **11. Communication of Cancellations & Delays**

Bryst will provide clear and timely updates via:

- Email notifications
- Club website updates
- Team communication apps or group messages

Whenever possible, decisions will be communicated **at least 60 minutes** before the scheduled start time.

## **12. Responsibilities**

### **Players & Families**

- Check for updates during questionable weather.

- Follow all instructions for clearing the field.

**Coaches & Team Staff**

- Enforce all stoppage and safety protocols.
- Monitor participants for weather-related illnesses or hazards.

**Officials & Facility Staff**

- Assess conditions continuously.
- Ensure fields, entrances, and equipment remain safe.

**13. Policy Enforcement**

Non-compliance may result in:

- Suspension or removal from the session
- Escalation to Ontario Soccer if required

Safety protocols must be always followed.

**14. Review & Updates**

This policy is reviewed annually to ensure alignment with:

- Updated Ontario Soccer weather and safety guidelines
- Canada Soccer Safe Sport and risk management policies
- Public health or municipal safety standards