

Weather Policy



JOHNSON CITY
PARKS & RECREATION

To provide consistent and uniform guidelines for staff, volunteers and participants to follow in the event of inclement weather for the public, health, safety, and well-being of staff, volunteers, participants, and facilities.

Guidelines

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 storm warnings issued by the National Weather Service, Public Safety, or the Recreation & Parks Department for tornadoes, hurricanes, or other severe storms. Staff will monitor weather conditions through various media sources.

Cancellations, postponements, and relocations 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.

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, thunder, or lightning, the Parks and Recreation Department recommends patrons at outdoor recreation areas find shelter and wait at least 30 minutes before resuming activities. The 30-minute time limit re-starts with each sound of thunder or flash of lightning. The Recreation Department reserves the right, as issued by the National Weather Service or Public Safety Department in the event of tornados or other severe storm watch or warnings, to close facilities and cancel activities for public safety. If a tornado warning is issued, all outdoor activities will be canceled, and indoor program participants will remain in a safe area until the warning has passed.

Cancellations/Postponements

Athletics and Outdoor Events

- When City Schools close due to inclement weather or other causes beyond their control, the Athletics Division will cancel events scheduled at all facilities.
- Outside temperature of 35 degrees or below
- Outside temperature of 95 degrees or above
- Rain, wind, lightning, snow, and/or severe weather conditions such as thunderstorms, blizzards, or tornado warnings.

All individuals participating in or observing an outdoor event are responsible for their safety and should monitor threatening weather conditions. During practices, the coaches and staff are the designated "weather watchers." During pre-game warm-up time, or during the game, the official shall be the designated "weather watcher." The official will make the call to stop play and inform the coaches to remove the players from the field and to go to their vehicles, and announce to the parents/spectators that play is suspended due to lightning.

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Athletics and Outdoor Events (continued)

Some places are safer than others, and the department cannot dictate to parents/spectators, officials, coaches, and players where the safe place is to be, but an open outdoor field is not the place to be. Parents need to take responsible action to assure their children or children of others are in a safe place if they are responsible for the other child or children by request of the parent or because the parent is not on the site. No lightning safety guidelines can guarantee absolute safety. It is the responsibility of parents, guardians, and spectators to be aware of the weather and take appropriate, safe action to be out of harm's way. The determination of play will be made by the Recreation Department.

Community Centers and Pools

When Johnson City schools are closed due to inclement weather, the community centers will open at 10:00 a.m. for access to the following areas: fitness room, gymnasium, game room, billiards room (MPCC), library (Carver) and pool (MPCC – for open/lap swim and open therapy only). Scheduled events and instructor-led programs will be canceled. The centers will close at 5:00 p.m.

When Johnson City Schools are delayed due to inclement weather, community centers and pools will open at 10:00 a.m., and all events and programs will begin at 10:00 a.m. Each location will close at normal closing hours unless inclement weather occurs later in the day that forces closure.

When schools are let out early due to inclement weather, all programs and events scheduled for the remainder of the day will be canceled.

If inclement weather occurs on a weekend or when schools are not in session, the Parks & Recreation Department Director will determine when parks and centers will open and make a decision by 6:00 a.m.

Patrons who have rented a facility are not typically affected by general program cancellations due to inclement weather. However, severe weather may impact facility availability; please call ahead to the rental site.

Transportation will not be provided when Johnson City Schools are closed or let out early due to inclement weather.

- Full-time staff report to work if able to travel safely; they may use vacation time if unable to report to work.
- Legion Street Pool (ONLY) If at any point it is raining hard enough that the staff cannot see the bottom of the deep end of the pool, the patrons are asked to exit the water. This applies to the Legion Street Pool only. Refunds or Rain Checks will not be given if the patrons are asked to exit the water for rain, thunder, or lightning.
- In the event of a thunder or lightning storm, all patrons will be asked to exit the water and not use the shower facilities at the Freedom Hall, MPCC, or Legion Street Pools. Patrons will be kept out of the water for 30 minutes from the last time thunder is heard or lightning is seen.

Notification Process

Depending on the type of weather event and impact, announcements will be communicated via email, website, various media sources (radio and TV), and our social media, or participants may call the centers for further information or to confirm.