



BARÇA Academy Austin weather Policy:

Weather conditions are the responsibility of the game officials, BARÇA Academy Austin Directors, and Coaches. Everyone should be aware of the potential dangers caused by different weather conditions and we need to work together to keep the players and other participants as safe as possible. If the weather conditions warrant, coaches will discuss before the game/training starts what the procedures will be to insure the safety of the players. Club Directors, Coaches, and game officials will monitor weather conditions including the warnings and watches issued by the National Weather Service.

In ALL cases, BARÇA Academy Austin will keep the safety of its players, families, coaches, and all persons as the highest priority.

Severe Storms

Severe storms can produce high winds, heavy rain, hail, lightning, thunder and/or tornados. If a severe storm approaches the playing area, the safety of the players is the number one priority of coaches and referees, and may require that the game be suspended while shelter is sought. In the event the game is suspended, ALL participants MUST clear the field immediately and move into their cars or other safe, permanent shelter.

As a consequence of these storms, the facilities and fields might not be playable for the next hours or even days.

Lightning and Thunder

Lightning is the second leading cause of storm-related deaths (flooding is first). Lightning can strike up to 10 miles outside of a thunderstorm, literally a bolt from the blue. The danger from lightning can persist for 20-30 minutes or more after a thunderstorm has passed. The National Weather Service does not issue watches or warnings for lightning by itself. However, BARÇA Academy Austin uses a lightning detector that can advise of storms and lightning up to 40 miles away.

If a person can hear thunder, or see lightning, the danger is already present. A clear, sunny sky overhead with storm clouds nearby can still be dangerous.

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BARÇA Academy Austin instructions in case of lightning:

If lightning is detected within 8-20 miles by the lightning detector, Club Directors and Coaches should use this information, along with local weather forecasts, and radar patterns to determine if training should be suspended. If there is any doubt, BARÇA Academy Austin will keep the safety of players, parents, and officials its highest priority. Play **MUST** be suspended until there is no danger detected for 30 minutes.

If lightning is detected by the lightning detector any closer than its setting of 8-20 miles, play **MUST** be immediately suspended and the field should be cleared for no less than 30 minutes from the last detection of lightning.

BARÇA Academy Austin recommends that participants seek immediate shelter in their automobiles or a designated severe weather shelter, if there is one nearby. Smaller, open structures, tents, trees, isolated areas, etc, should be avoided. Cars, with windows rolled up or buses, can provide good shelter. Avoid contact with metal or other conducting materials to the outside surfaces. Do not stay in open, unprotected areas.

Games should not be restarted for at least 30 minutes after the last lightning strike is seen or detected and/or roll of thunder is heard.

Cancelation procedure in case of lightning during training:

- Strike before 4:30 PM, players, families and coaches need to stay at their cars.
- Strike before 5:00 PM, players, families and coaches need to stay at their cars. If there is not a family member, players need to seek immediate shelter.
- Strike before 5:30 PM, delay until 6:00 PM. Same procedure as point 2.
- Strike at 6:00 PM, cancel the first turn and assess for the second turn.
- Strike before 6:45 PM, players, families and coaches need to stay at their cars. If there is not a family member, players need to seek immediate shelter.
- Strike before 7:15 PM, delay until 7:45 PM. Same procedure as point 5.
- Strike at 7:45 PM, cancel the second turn.



Also, the practice may be canceled under our technical or program directors decision if the weather forecast seems bad in the near future.

Hot Weather

Heat is a problem when it prevents the body from cooling itself down. The hotter the body gets, the more likely it is to increase fatigue levels, develop cramps, and increase the possibility of heat exhaustion and heat stroke. The hotter and more humid the weather, the faster these problems can develop. Temperatures as low as 65 degrees, with a relative humidity of 100%, can be serious.

The below heat chart will help BARÇA Academy Austin determine the severity of the heat and plan accordingly.

Games/Trainings need to be adjusted as the heat index rises:

- 89°: Normal Play.
- 90°-99°: Mandatory two minute water breaks per half with running time.
- 100°-105°: Mandatory two minute water breaks per half with running time. Each half may be shortened by 5 minutes. Mandatory training breaks every 20 minutes.
- + 105°: Mandatory two minute water breaks per half with running time. Mandatory shortening of halves by 5 minutes. Mandatory training breaks every 20 minutes and MUST shorten training session duration.
- Cold Weather

For fall play, cold becomes a factor. Players should be allowed to dress in appropriate clothing. Field conditions will be affected by freezing temperatures, rain, freezing rain, and occasionally sleet and snow. The ground may become frozen and be unsafe for play. Temperature means either ambient (still air) or wind chill index. BARÇA Academy Austin will check weather patterns and forecasts frequently for temperature and weather conditions.

The below cold index chart will help BARÇA Academy Austin determine the severity of the cold weather and plan accordingly.

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Games/Trainings need to be adjusted as the coldness worsens:

- More or 50°: No Change
- Less or 49°: Allowable Additional Clothing:
 - Thermal underwear
 - Long sleeves
 - Long pants
 - Additional socks
 - Gloves
 - Nike hats without straps
- Less or 40°: Game/practice might be shortened (games 5 minutes per half).
- Less or 35°: Game/practice might be suspended.

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