



BARÇA Academy Columbus Weather Policy:

Weather conditions are the responsibility of the game officials, BARÇA Academy Columbus 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 Columbus will prioritize the safety of 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 a game (or practice) to be suspended while shelter is sought. In the event the game (or practice) 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.

Procedure for Liberty Park South training sessions in case of severe storms: Coaches must stop any activity immediately and in an organized manner make their way to the shelter located near the parking lot.

Procedure for Northside Fellowship Church training sessions in case of severe storms: Coaches must stop any activity immediately and in an organized manner make their way to the shelter located under the overhang.

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 30 minutes or more after a thunderstorm has passed.

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.

BARÇA Academy Columbus instructions in case of lightning:

If lightning is detected or thunder is heard play MUST be suspended until there is no danger detected for at least 30 minutes.

BARÇA Academy Columbus recommends that participants seek immediate shelter in their automobiles or a designated severe weather shelter, if there is one nearby. 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.

**A WAY TO PLAY.
A WAY TO GROW.**



Procedure for Liberty Park South training sessions in case of lightning and thunder: Coaches must stop any activity immediately and in an organized manner make their way to the shelter located near the parking lot.

Procedure for Northside Fellowship Church training sessions in case of lightning and thunder: Coaches must stop any activity immediately and in an organized manner make their way to the shelter located under the overhang.

Games will not be restarted until 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 4:30PM, players, families and coaches need to stay at their cars.
- Strike before 5:00PM, delay until 5:30PM. 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, cancel the first turn and assess for the second turn.
- Strike before 6:00 PM, players, families and coaches need to stay at their cars.
- Strike before 6:30 PM, delay until 7:00 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 at 7:00 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.

Cold Weather

Cold is a constant factor we run into in Columbus. Players should 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 Columbus will check weather patterns and forecasts frequently for temperature and weather conditions.

Reschedule Procedure:

During the Fall and the Spring, if practice fields are in poor conditions to hold a training session, a final call will be made by 3:00pm the day of to determine if practice sessions are held as scheduled. If SuperKick has space available we will inform it via email and/or TeamSnap.

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