

Ararat Cal Ripken Baseball League Inclement Weather Policy

Last Updated: 3/31/2009

NOTE: This policy is intended for Regular Season games only.

Relating to weather, the goals of the Ararat Cal Ripken Baseball League are:

- To promote the safety of all participants and spectators
- Attempt to “complete” games when practical
- Minimize inconvenience as much as possible.

With the above goals in mind, the following guidelines should be observed for all teams, with the exception of any team that has a higher set of restrictions imposed on them by their local town recreation department.

A. Major, Minor and Rookie Leagues:

At the FIRST incident of lightning, all persons will immediately seek safe shelter, as described below, and the game will be suspended. Scorebooks should note inning, outs, count on batter, and time.

The Managers/Coaches and umpire shall decide whether the remainder of the game will be cancelled OR if a 30-minute delay will be observed.

B. Safe Shelter:

A Safe Structure is defined as “any building normally occupied or frequently used by people, i.e., a building with plumbing and or electrical wiring that acts to electrically ground the structure”.

If safe shelter is not available, a vehicle can be used (not a convertible). Make sure the windows are rolled up. A vehicle is better than remaining outdoors. The rubber tires do not make the vehicle safer but rather the metal roof, which helps dissipate the lightning strike around the vehicle. **DO NOT TOUCH THE SIDES OF THE VEHICLE!** In the absence of a safe shelter or vehicle, a dugout or any open shelter may be used.

C. 30-Minute Delay:

A 30-minute waiting period MAY be observed in anticipation of resuming play, IF ALL the following conditions are evident:

- There is access to adequate “safe shelter” for all in attendance (including cars)
- The likelihood appears that threatening conditions will dissipate

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- The waiting period will NOT extend beyond the start time of the next scheduled game

Once the “30 minute clock” is started, if further lightning activity occurs, the clock will be restarted.

D. Resume Play:

In order to resume play the following criteria must be met.

- A continuous period of 30 minutes passes without further incident of lightning
- The resumption of play is prior to the (2) hour game time limit
- The field condition is playable
- Sufficient light exists

If the above criteria can NOT be met and the game has reached the regulation minimum inning limit of 3-1/2 or 4 innings played, the game will be considered "official" and recorded on the league web site. If the game cannot be restarted and does not meet the regulation minimum inning limit, the game must be **replayed** as a new game. If a game is declared "No Game", no records (pitching or otherwise) are kept and pitching eligibility, etc., is intact as it was prior to the beginning of the "No Game" situation. It is as if no pitch was thrown, no ball hit or caught.

NOTE: For Ararat Teams Only: All Major and Minor teams are required to play a minimum of 10 games in order for players to qualify for All-Star consideration.

E. Communication and Decisions:

The Ararat Cal Ripken Baseball League encourages the cooperation of league officials, umpires, managers, and coaches when making these determinations. However, final authority for such decisions rests with the local league directors, or in their absence, the HOME team manager/coach on hand. Assumptions should not be made by anyone, and all waiting periods, possible restarts, and/or cancellations should be clearly communicated to all involved. Consideration should be given to the age and experience of all those involved.

F. Exception:

If a local Town or Recreation Department has stricter requirements for an inclement weather situation (thunder & lightning) then those teams are to adhere to there respective policies.