



**Negative Playing Conditions:
Inclement Weather, Ground Conditions and Other Playing Conditions**

The Tournament Director, in conjunction with the Contest Officials and administrators, are accountable for the safety of the players and spectators when Negative Playing Conditions, such as inclement weather conditions, poor ground, course, court, track or field conditions and other negative playing conditions, arise. In addition, because softball is a unique sport, requiring skills that can be drastically impacted by such Negative Playing Conditions, the Tournament Director, in conjunction with the Contest Officials and administrators, shall insure that the contest can be played in a manner which is not unreasonably impacted by the Negative Playing Conditions.

Prior to the start of the contest, the Tournament Director shall be responsible for judging whether the weather conditions, the conditions of the ground and field and other playing conditions which affect safety and manner of play, will permit the contest to be played safely and in a reasonable and appropriate manner. If the Tournament Director is confronted with these Negative Playing Conditions prior to the beginning of the contest, the Tournament Director is authorized to postpone the contest.

After the contest begins, and until the contest ends, Contest Officials have the initial authority to determine whether the contest can be played safely and in a manner which is not substantially impacted by the Negative Playing Conditions. When such conditions exist, the Contest Officials and the Tournament Director must consult about the Negative Playing Conditions and shall seek a consensus with respect to any decision to suspend play. The Contest Official, however, has the ultimate authority during the contest to suspend play if the Negative Playing Conditions are such that the contest cannot be played safely and in a reasonable and appropriate manner.

Examples: Not to be considered an exhaustive list, the following are examples of Negative Playing Conditions which may cause the postponement of the contest or the suspension of play:

1. Substantial inclement weather, such as a tornado sighting or warning, lightning (see, Guidelines for Lightning Safety; IHSAA Lightning Policy), dense fog, etc.
2. Unreasonably poor ground conditions, such as a field which is excessively muddy, a field with standing water, a court which is excessively wet, etc.
3. Other unusual playing conditions exist, such as an earthquake, a threatening wildfire, a nearby chemical spill, a riot and other civil disobedience, etc.

Tournament contests which are postponed or suspended should be played or resumed on the next available date, including Friday. Suspended contests shall be resumed at the point of interruption. Every effort should be made not to cause a team(s) to play back-to-back contests on school nights. If scheduling two sessions on Saturdays, there should be at least a three-hour rest period between the sessions.