

The Villages®

Community Development Districts

Recreation & Parks



Weather Policy for Recreation Facilities

Purpose: To provide consistent and uniform guidelines for creating awareness and communication to staff and participants regarding inclement weather that may impact the public, health, safety and well-being of staff, volunteers, participants and facilities.

Guidelines for Recreation Facilities: The following guidelines are recommended for recreation sponsored activities, leagues, tournaments, and special events.

The Recreation Department has the right, as issued by the National Weather Service, Public Safety, or Recreation Department in the event of tornadoes, hurricanes or other severe storm watch/warning, weather conditions to close facilities and/or cancel/postpone or relocate activities at Recreation facilities for public safety.

Cancellations, postponements and relocation of activities will be done in a timely manner. Sponsored activities will be cancelled/postponed a minimum of thirty minutes to one hour before scheduled play time depending on type of activity. Emergency alert warning may require sooner cancellations.

Notification Process: Depending on the type of weather event and impact, staff will communicate via email, word of mouth, posting on website or other media sources regarding information. Weather condition and type of facility may vary from center to center in the community.

Inclement Weather: 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 on Inclement weather, the Recreation Department recommends patrons at outdoor recreation areas find shelter and wait at least 30 minutes or longer as deemed necessary by Public Safety or National Weather Service Advisory prior to resuming safe normal activities.

Weather Temperature: Cancellations/postponements related to Temperature

Temperature Guidelines

- Outside temperature of 35 degrees or lower
- Outside temperature heat index of 104 or higher

Protocol

- District Staff will monitor weather conditions through various media sources that include but are not limited to WVLG and wunderground.com (La Zamora station)
- District Staff (on-site recreation staff i.e. athletic/recreation assistant) will receive direction from department manager or supervisor if cancellation/postponements process is recommended based on the above guidelines.

Process

- District Staff (on-site recreation staff i.e. athletic/recreation assistant) will notify activity representatives and/or participants via phone and/or in person that the recreation sponsored event(s) is recommended to be cancelled/postponed until further notice
- District staff will notify activity representatives when temperature resumes to safe conditions and play can continue.

Funshine Bingo

Funshine Bingo will be cancelled 30 minutes prior to the start time of the bingo cards being sold based on the following:

- Outside temperature of 35 degrees or lower
- Outside temperature heat index of 104 or higher
- Rain, wind, lightning and/or severe conditions (tornado, hurricane, thunderstorm watch/warnings) that compromise the safety of the participants or the condition of the facility.

Swimming Pools

- Recreation staff will be in charge of Family & Sports pools that are on-site
- Neighborhood Adult pools off site and other outdoor recreation areas will be self-monitored,
 - ▶ For those pools scheduled for 90 minute pool checks, staff is to clear the swimming pool and wait the allotted 30 minutes for the weather to clear. If weather does not clear, staff is to notify their manager and leave.
- Recreation staff and Community Watch staff, in the area during inclement weather, will use their best judgment to encourage and inform patrons to leave the pool or outdoor recreation areas if they deem necessary.
- If pool temperatures drop below 81 degrees, a sign will be posted at the entrance of the pool informing residents of the temperature change. The pool will remain open.

Cancellations will occur for the following reasons:

- Outside temperature of 35 degrees or lower
- Rain, wind, lightning and/or severe conditions (tornado, hurricane, thunderstorm watch/warnings) that compromise the safety of the participants or the condition of the facility.

Lake Sumter Line – Boat Tours, Pontoon Boat Tours, Fishing Excursions, and Kayaking

Cancellations due to inclement weather will be made by the recreation staff in charge of the boats an hour prior to the first scheduled trip.

Cancellations will occur for the following reasons:

- **Air Temperature Policy:**
 - ❖ If the forecast temperature for 12:00 noon will be below 50°F, cancel operations.
 - ❖ If the forecast temperature for 12:00 noon will be between 50°F and 55°F, the decision to cancel will be at the discretion of scheduled Captains.
 - ❖ During summer, if the forecast heat index for 12:00 noon will be 95° or higher, cancel operations.
 - ❖ If the decision is to cancel operations, all scheduled crew are to be advised no later than 60 minutes prior to the scheduled start time (earlier if possible).

- **High Wind Policy:**
 - ❖ If high winds are present (above 17 mph), suspend operations.
 - ❖ If medium winds are present (10-16 mph), operate at Captain's discretion.
 - ❖ (Wind speed measurements are approximate based on best available information.)
 - ❖ If very high winds (above 50 mph) have been forecast, boats are to be retied in a "sprung out" format to avoid contact with dock and/or sea wall.
- Rain, wind, lightning and/or severe conditions (tornado, hurricane, thunderstorm watch/warnings) that compromise the safety of patrons, staff and the conditions of boats and docks.

Open Play & Resident Sponsored Activities

Participants assume full responsibility for any risk of bodily injury arising out of or any way connected with participation or involvement in or presence at the activity or program. For the safety and well-being of the public, the Recreation Department may close facilities at any time due to weather conditions.

Rain Delays

If it is raining before the start of play and stops before the scheduled play time, play will continue as planned if the fields/courts are deemed playable. If rain continues into the scheduled play time, recreation staff/volunteer may invoke a rain delay. After a reasonable amount of time, staff will decide if the weather has improved and is suitable for play or if the activity should be declared a rainout.

Inside facilities will be closed as directed by the Director of Recreation.

Disclaimer

If at any time facility/field conditions or weather conditions are deemed unsafe, the District Recreation Department reserves the right to cancel or postpone any activity. At all times participants play at their own risk.

For further information and complete activity schedules please visit www.districtgov.org, check the Recreation News, the Bulletin boards at each facility or call your nearest Recreation Center.