

## **BAD WEATHER PROCEDURE AND POSTPONEMENT / ABANDONMENT**

The rules outlined are to guide teams participating in all IHA organised Competitions of the appropriate actions to take in the event of bad weather being anticipated prior to match day or experienced on the match day.

### **I. BAD WEATHER PROCEDURE**

NOTE 1: Both teams may have incurred costs related to the staging or travel and accommodation for the planned date. To avoid /minimise any loss, every effort should be made to play the game on the date planned. Early communication and planning will support this objective.

NOTE 2: Whilst it is accepted that no system of match postponement can be perfect, teams are requested to try and ensure that games are postponed in sufficient time for visiting teams and officials to be saved the time and expense of wasted journeys.

NOTE 3: Tournaments are under the auspices of the Tournament Director who will make any decisions regarding Bad Weather.

NOTE 4: In the case of the IHL, the IHA Bad Weather Procedure does not detract in any way from the responsibilities of Technical Officials outlined in the Rules and Regulations of the IHL; it should be seen as a complement to the Regulations as Technical Officials may live some miles from a pitch and can give no view on conditions until they have arrived at the pitch).

NOTE 5: The following procedure should be followed by the home team.

#### **I.1 Anticipated Bad Weather (48 – 24 hours prior to match)**

- Enquiries should be made of any local meteorological office to confirm weather conditions for the next 24 to 48 hours.
- The home team should ascertain the departure time of the away team. If an overnight stay prior to the game is expected, the departure time will be the day prior to the match day.
- The home team must ascertain what realistic alternatives are available to give every opportunity for the game to proceed on the planned weekend.

Options to consider:

- Would a change in the start time give a better chance of the game proceeding? (it may be that swapping an earlier planned club match would be less inconvenient /cost all round?)
- Is there an alternative pitch nearby that is less likely to be affected by the adverse weather conditions (e.g. not impacted by fog or frost)?
- If the match is scheduled for Saturday, would a change to the Sunday or Friday night be an option?

Any realistic options must be explored and either dismissed as unviable or identified as an alternative for the game to take place on the scheduled weekend. The identified options should be discussed with the visiting team and the IHA Office. A decision on how to proceed (or when to make the call) can be made in consultation with both teams and the IHA Office any time prior to the departure time of the visiting team.

## **1.2 Pitch Inspection**

- It is the responsibility of the home team to arrange an inspection of the pitch prior to the departure time of the visiting team. The pitch inspection must be performed in conjunction with a Match Official i.e. Umpire. If there is a Technical Official appointed for the match s/he should be contacted to ascertain if they can be available at an earlier time to make the decision and if so, an inspection time agreed with them, in line with the departure time of the visiting team.

## **1.3 Anticipated Bad Weather (<24 hours prior to match time)**

A realistic view must be taken at the time of the pitch inspection. If the pitch is unplayable and is likely to remain so AND no alternative plan has been agreed (as above) the game should be postponed and the following action taken:

1. Notify the IHA Office
2. Notify the Away Team
3. Notify the Umpires (and Technical Official if relevant)
4. Notify spectators

## **1.4 Match Start (Pitch Unplayable/Adverse Weather)**

- Before the match starts, the decision on whether or not the pitch is playable shall be the responsibility of the Umpires unless a Technical Official has been appointed for the match
- Once a game has started, the decision on whether it should be abandoned rests with the Umpires. A match is considered abandoned if it cannot be completed on the same day that the match was started. For the avoidance of any doubt, if a match is suspended temporarily and completed later in the same day, the match will resume at the same scoreline and elapsed time as when it was suspended, with the same team of players. If a match is suspended temporarily the Technical Official (if one is in place, otherwise the Umpires) may then decide to abandon the match, at their discretion.
- When a game has been abandoned, the Umpires or Technical Official (if appointed) should ensure the Match Report is completed and signed in line with the procedure for completed games. An abandoned match is deemed null and void.

## **2 Abandoned Matches**

- 2.1** In the event of a match having to be abandoned as a result of adverse weather or safety reasons (either before or during the match) the re-fix must be arranged through the IHA Office or IHL Administration Committee, as appropriate'.
- 2.2** The re-scheduled match will be played in its entirety, from the start.
- 2.3** Any disciplinary issues that occur prior to a match being abandoned or suspended will be dealt with under the IHA Disciplinary Procedure. Conduct during an abandoned match still falls subject to the IHA Disciplinary Procedure, notwithstanding that the match may be abandoned or suspended.

2.4 In the event that a player is suspended as a result of an incident in a match which is then abandoned, the suspension shall take effect immediately i.e. the next match in the competition will be the first match for which the suspension takes effect.

### **3 Failure to Follow Bad Weather Procedure**

If a team fails to follow the IHA Bad Weather Procedure and when all parties arrive it is clear that the pitch was, and patently has been unfit prior to the match time, the Umpires, or Technical Official (if appointed), may be asked to submit a report for the consideration of the competition organising committee who may take action as it seems appropriate, including a report to the Chief Executive of the IHA in accordance with the IHA Discipline process outlined in the IHA Constitution. If a club is found guilty by the IHA Discipline Committee (or, on appeal by the Appeals Committee) of ignoring these procedures, the club may be liable to a fine of up to €5,000.