

# **Pacific Coast Baseball League Inc.**

## **Inclement Weather Guidelines**

(1 April 2004)

### **A. Background**

The PCBL has developed the following guidelines, to provide all participators in games under its competition with information in respect of the best course of action to take in case of inclement weather. Inclement weather includes: rain; wind; thunder; lightning; sand storm and the consequences during and after games under its auspices.

There are no set nor fixed rules in respect of Inclement Weather issued by insurers, underwriters or councils. The following Guidelines have been developed in response of the need to set out specific direction which the PCBL EC considers prudent steps in respect of attending to its responsibilities under Duty of Care. Ultimately, the final action will rest with the ground officials attending the game, or during the game, the ultimate decision making rests with the Umpire.

These Guidelines are designed to address conditions during a game, and situations when game should be suspended. However, the risk arising from inclement weather conditions continues well beyond game situations, the PCBL EC requests of officials (Coaches, Managers and Umpires) take extreme care and to remind all that personal safety should be, above all the main consideration, and that unnecessary risk must be avoided at all costs. Considerations to the most simple and 'aparent' safe places or conditions may not be so, therefore the PCBL EC requests that everyone exercises the highest consideration to the safety for themselves and others.

### **B. Applicable PCBL Competition rules**

The following are the relevant rules set out under the PCBL Competition rules.

#### **6. GROUNDS & WEATHER**

- 6.1 The League CC reserves the right to call off any competition round or game depending upon weather conditions or ground availability.
- 6.2 The fitness of the ground, at the time scheduled to commence a competition game shall be decided by the authorities controlling the ground, or by the officially appointed umpire, in that order. The umpire shall determine the fitness of the ground for play at any time. If the coaches disagree, the game is declared a 'no game'. This rule will not be subject to protest.
- 6.3 The umpire, upon being made aware that the layout of the diamond is incorrect, shall see that it is corrected immediately.
- 6.4 In the event of the game not being played because of a ground not being available, other than a breach of rule 6.5, the result shall be declared a 'no game'. Each of the two (2) team coaches may advise the League CC within seven (7) days that by mutual agreement they will play the game before the last round of the current season. No such provision exists for a replay of games of the two (2) last scheduled competition rounds of the season.

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- 6.5 The Umpire shall be the sole judge on the condition of play due to weather or light. Coaches may approach the Umpire to state their point of view, but the decision rests solely with the Umpire. In the event of a game being stopped temporarily it shall proceed when directed by the Umpire if the resumption is within the allocated schedule time for the game. Normal 10-minute and official time game rules apply.

### HOME TEAM DUTIES & DUGOUT

- 6.6 The team named first in the competition draw shall be the home team and will occupy 3<sup>rd</sup> base dugout and field first. Any team playing on their home ground will always occupy their designated dugout.
- 6.7 The home team, playing on their home ground, whether the home or away team shall dress the ground prior to the game and remove all equipment as necessary at the conclusion of the game. PENALTY.
- 6.8 The home team, playing on a neutral ground, shall be responsible for the dressing of the ground prior to the game and remove all equipment as necessary at the conclusion of the game. PENALTY.

## C. Ground conditions decision making

The relevant Competition rules regarding ground conditions are listed in the above.

In order to prioritise the decision making ranking, the following must be observed:

- a. the 'line' order to declare a ground unsuitable for play is as follows. **1<sup>st</sup>** authority call on Ground is the Council, at any time; **2<sup>nd</sup>** authority will be the relevant council appointed Club Ground Controller, at any time; **3<sup>rd</sup>** authority will be the Umpire, after game time;
- b. the local Council has declared that the ground is CLOSED. This is generally done by posting a notice on a council wet weather recorded telephone line. Neither the PCBL nor club is authorised to change this direction. The PCBL CC will monitor these and post a Summary message in its own recorded Wet Weather telephone line.

Telephone numbers are:

PCBL	1 900 920 221	Willoughby	9777 7631
Ryde	9952 8244	Baulkham Hills	9843 0354
Canada Bay	9715 2072		

other councils leave this role to the designated club

- c. at the time for game to start, the Umpire will have the final say regarding ground and weather conditions. However, the Umpire will have authority **ONLY** upon the start of the game individually, in other words the Umpire may **NOT** close the ground, he may only defer, delay, suspend the game during its allocated playing time.
- d. a game may not be automatically abandoned due to weather conditions, a game may only be abandoned because the ground is declared unplayable. However, a game may be abandoned if both Coaches and Umpire agree that it will be unlikely that the game will be able to re-start.

A game stopping due to weather conditions is

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- e. a game stopping due to weather conditions is only 'delayed' during the period of the inclement weather, and all players and officials (including the Umpire) must be ready and available to resume play when conditions are declared, by the Umpire, safe to resume. However, note that these may only be carried out during the allocated playing time for each game independently.

### **D. Amplified Guidelines**

The following are measures on the do's and don'ts of what to do in case of inclement weather.

#### **Rain**

The impact of rain upon a game being played may vary depending on the intensity and duration of rain and the effect this has in the playing surface.

Fallout of rain should be considered dangerous, and generally play should cease.

Indicative signs to suspend a game may include:

- a. water builds up over stepping areas, principally the pitcher landing foot spot and the batter's stand and step areas;
- b. base runner running paths show puddles of water;

#### **Lightning**

Lighting must be visible and thunder audible. Observe the extent and distance of lighting around the field area. It should consider dangerous to continue play if there is lighting within a 10 km perimeter from the playing field. The NSW Bureau of Meteorology advises that the best way to determine the proximity is to measure the time between light (electric ray) and sound (thunder), if the time is within 30 seconds, the storm axis is within the 10 km perimeter and play should stop.

Care should be taken when taking shelter, locations NOT recommended by the Bureau of Meteorology are those where there is a direct conduit between the atmosphere and ground, such as cover under trees, dugouts, canopies. Often taking shelter from rain may provide increased danger from lighting. Seek higher roofed buildings or brick enclosed areas, such as club rooms, toilet facilities or motor vehicles, where the tyre rubber provides a non-conduit passage.

#### **Wind**

Wind is to be considered dangerous in grounds which have close proximity of trees and low bush vegetation.