

WMLL Field Conditions & Weather Safety (8.20.20)

Reminders on how to stay abreast of field conditions & weather safety rules

FIELD CONDITIONS

There are several ways to check on the conditions of WMLL fields before a scrimmage or practice - including if the field is unplayable (closed) due to weather:

- **Website:** Check the field condition page on WMLL's website (at www.wml.org/about-wml/field-conditions/)
- **Phone Hotline:** Call WMLL's field condition hotline at 608/274-6556
- **Email Alert (RECOMMENDED!):** Sign up for field condition email alerts (at www.wml.org/about-wml/field-conditions/subscribe/)

Note: Updates are only sent when field conditions change.

WEATHER SAFETY

- **Lightning:** If there is visible lightning during a scrimmage or practice, coaches must take immediate action to keep everyone safe:
 - Cancel the scrimmage or practice in which case everyone must leave the ballpark as soon as possible. Coaches must stay with their players until the last one has been picked up.
 - Suspended the scrimmage / practice for 30 minutes & have everyone take immediate shelter in a dugout, restroom or private vehicle or under the covered portion of the concession stand or picnic porch (NOT under trees!)
 - *Be sure to maintain social distancing while doing so.*
 - *If subsequent lighting is seen, the 30 minute delay must start anew.*
- **Rain:** When rain occurs during a scrimmage or practice, coaches have the primary responsibility to evaluate field conditions & determine if practice can continue. Be careful to not cause damage when making evaluations & stay off the infield as soon as you determine it is unplayable. If a ground crew or Board member is present at the field, they can provide assistance & coaches must abide by their decision.

A field is unplayable when:

- 1) There are puddles on the infield or it is muddy,
- 2) Water seeps up/into your footprint when you put your full weight down in any areas that appear damp,
- 3) Any area of the infield gives or is slippery or loose under foot when you plant your foot sideways & push off (like you are cutting to move laterally) or
- 4) Other indicators suggest that the field is unsafe or prone to damage.

Please error on the side of player safety & caution in determining field conditions!

- **When a Field is Unplayable:** Please replace the tarps, remove the bases & text 608/535-0001 to report that field conditions are unplayable so the weather hotline can be updated.
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