



Inclement Weather Policy & Guidance for Potential Session and/or Fixture Postponement

The aim of this document is to provide coaches, captains, umpires and officials with relevant guidelines, and to outline protocols, reporting expectations and responsibilities in the event of inclement weather. Whilst every effort is made to ensure that training sessions and fixtures can go ahead as scheduled, player safety must come first and the postponement/cancellation of activities may be required if the site is deemed unsafe or weather conditions become too severe for the activity to go ahead safely.

Those running or responsible for the activity (coaches, umpires, etc) should review if conditions worsen and take sensible precautions to ensure the safety of all involved, including the suspension or cancellation of activities currently in progress.

Please make sure you read the recent guidance from England Hockey below (Appendix 1) and also familiarise yourself with Section 13 (page 12+) in the London Hockey League Regulations.

When making decisions as to whether or not a pitch is 'playable' please consider pre-game, the game itself and post-game arrangements, and bear in mind the following:

1. Player safety
2. Protocols for inspecting pitches (there are additional cost implications for cancelling prior to the day of the fixture for example)
3. Communications to others as appropriate

Pre-Game (travel & comms)

- Is it safe for players, umpires and officials to travel to/from the game (examples might include periods of heavy snowfall, very high winds, flooding, etc)?
- Time of inspection – please ensure that decisions are made, wherever possible, before the away team, umpires and officials depart for the game, and communicate with them (and your own team/umpires) as early as possible.

The Game (the pitch facility)

There are three areas we need to assess/be mindful of.

1. The pitch itself – Your inspection should cover the WHOLE pitch. If the pitch is used when frozen or when there is a hard frost, it will damage the surface. Equally the ball may 'skip' off the surface which can be dangerous.
 - Is the turf frozen? Is there a covering of hard frost? **Test:** Ball roll – does the ball skip or bobble when rolled across the pitch by hand?
 - Is the surface unusually slippery and is this likely to increase the likelihood of accidents/injuries? Are areas of the pitch flooded? **Test:** You should be able to tell from walking across the pitch.
2. Under the pitch – The concern here is more around potential impact and/or head injuries. If the shock pad is frozen, it is like falling on concrete.
 - Is the shock pad or e-layer frozen? **Test:** Ball drop – does the ball bounce off the turf as it should do? Does it make a thud or hollow sound when it hits the ground? If not, the ground is frozen.
3. Around the pitch – are the areas around the playing surface (including access points) safe? Consider access in an emergency? Are run-off areas safe?

Post-Game (comms)

- If we do have to cancel or postpone home games, please make sure you advise other Wayfarers teams who are scheduled to play after you at that facility on that date, and remind them to liaise with their team, umpires, officials, etc.
- Please also make sure you liaise with caterers to cancel teas.

Other Considerations

When making your decision, you should also factor in forecast changes in temperature throughout the day (both up and down), sunlight (30 mins of sun on a pitch can make a big difference) and/or shade (i.e. tree cover which might prevent sun from getting on to the pitch).

Whilst pitch/playing conditions may initially improve, the time of the activity, position of the sun (and potential obstructions to sunlight), forecast changes in temperature, deterioration of the weather and the distance/duration of travel of visitors, should all be considered when making your decision.

Contacts

Frozen pitch contacts confirmed for all sites (other than La Retraite):

Battersea Park	Call 020 3959 0069
Bank of England	Call 020 8392 4360 for reception
Crystal Palace	Call 020 8037 0432 for the duty manager
Dulwich College	Call 020 8299 9292 and ask for the duty manager
Kennington Park	Call 020 7091 0846
Kings House Sports Ground	Call 07986 264 803 for the weekend groundsman
La Retraite	Attend site and make judgement (awaiting confirmation from Helena @ La Retraite)
Newton Prep	Call 020 7720 4091 ext. 1229 for Val Pitcairn
Streatham & Clapham High School	Call 020 3123 9103 for the caretaker on duty
St Francis Xavier 6 th Form College	Call 020 8772 6018 for the Estates Team
Wimbledon High School	Call 07512 321 671 for Duty Manager (Max)

If you have any concerns or are unsure about a pitch/fixture, please contact Mark Atherton on 07519 600 887.

CHECKLIST

Pitch Inspection		Communications	
Groundsman pitch inspection	Yes / No	Groundsman	Yes / No
Team/captain inspection	Yes / No	Away team	Yes / No
Under foot test (safe to play)?	Yes / No	Home team	Yes / No
Ball roll test (safe to play)	Yes / No	Umpires / officials	Yes / No
Ball drop test (safe to play)	Yes / No	Other LW teams	Yes / No
Access and surrounding areas safe?	Yes / No	Caterers	Yes / No
Safe to travel to/from games?	Yes / No	Others as needed	Yes / No

APPENDIX 1

Dear Captain,

As London looks set for the first chilly weekend of the season, please ensure that you are familiar with the expectations regarding appointments /appointed officials.

The following applies to all teams who receive appointed officials and officials who undertake neutral appointments.

Home Teams:

- Ensure you have mobile telephone numbers of your officials and any umpire support
Provide officials and umpire support with your expected pitch inspection times
- In the event of a cancellation, contact the appointed officials and umpire support as soon as possible by telephone unless otherwise agreed

Appointed Officials/Umpire Support:

- Provide up to date contact details, including mobile telephone numbers to home clubs.
Be on the lookout for contact from clubs on match day, and ensure that you are contactable.
- Clubs and officials staying in contact during cold weather days is vital to ensuring no wasted trips are made.

Wishing all the best to those games that do go ahead, and for those whose fixtures do not go ahead, enjoy a warm Saturday session in the club house!

Many thanks,

Georga
Club Liaison Lead
England Hockey