

CITY OF WHITEWATER POLICY		TITLE: Heat, Air Quality and Inclement Weather Policy
POLICY SOURCE: Parks and Recreation Department	Parks and Recreation Board Approval Date: 1/7/2013 Modified:8/19/2026	TEXT NAME: G:\Park & Rec\General Information\Policy\ Heat, Air Quality and Inclement Weather Policy

I. Purpose

It is the purpose of this policy to establish guidelines and procedures for how to handle extreme cold and heat/humid conditions in order to protect participants, spectators, and staff in Whitewater Parks and Recreation Department programs and events.

II. General Statement

The City of Whitewater Parks and Recreation Department may require that activities be altered or canceled due to inclement weather i.e., thunder and lightning, snow, wind, and extreme heat.

III. Actions

The following policy is hereby established regarding the occurrence of severe weather and extreme heat during Whitewater Parks & Recreation activities:

- A. **THUNDER & LIGHTNING:** Effectively immediately, once lightning is observed or thunder is heard during outdoor recreation activities, all athletic fields must be cleared for a period of 20 minutes. If lightning is observed (or thunder heard) again, the 20 minute period of cleared fields starts over.
- B. **SNOW:** When schools are closed or close early due to inclement weather, all recreation and parks activities for that day are cancelled. For weekend activities, if the City declares a snow emergency after 6 pm Friday or anytime Saturday, all Saturday activities are cancelled. If a snow emergency is in effect after 6 pm Saturday or anytime Sunday, all Sunday activities are cancelled. This includes activities that occur at school sites or City sites.
- C. **WIND:** When a high wind warning is issued by the National Weather Service (NWS), outdoor activities shall not operate within close proximity of trees, power lines and other potential hazards. THE NWS defines high wind warnings as sustained wind speeds of 40 mph or greater for 1 hour or longer or 58 mph or greater for any duration of time.
- D. **AIR QUALITY:** Air quality conditions shall be monitored when smoke, wildfire activity, air pollution, or other conditions may create unhealthy outdoor air quality. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Air Quality Index (AQI) for the Whitewater area shall be used as the primary guide for determining whether outdoor Parks and Recreation programs, activities, and events should be modified or canceled.

AQI 0–100 (Good to Moderate): Activities may proceed as scheduled. Staff should continue to monitor conditions when air quality is expected to deteriorate.

AQI 101–150 (Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups): Activities may proceed with caution. Participants should be provided additional rest opportunities, and strenuous or prolonged outdoor

activity may be reduced. Individuals who are unusually sensitive to air pollution, including those with respiratory or heart conditions, should be encouraged to limit participation as appropriate.

AQI 151–200 (Unhealthy): Outdoor activities should be modified, shortened, relocated indoors when practical, or canceled based on the duration and intensity of the activity and current or anticipated air quality conditions. Strenuous outdoor activities should be avoided.

AQI 201 or Greater (Very Unhealthy/Hazardous): All outdoor Parks and Recreation programs, activities, and events shall be canceled, postponed, or relocated indoors.

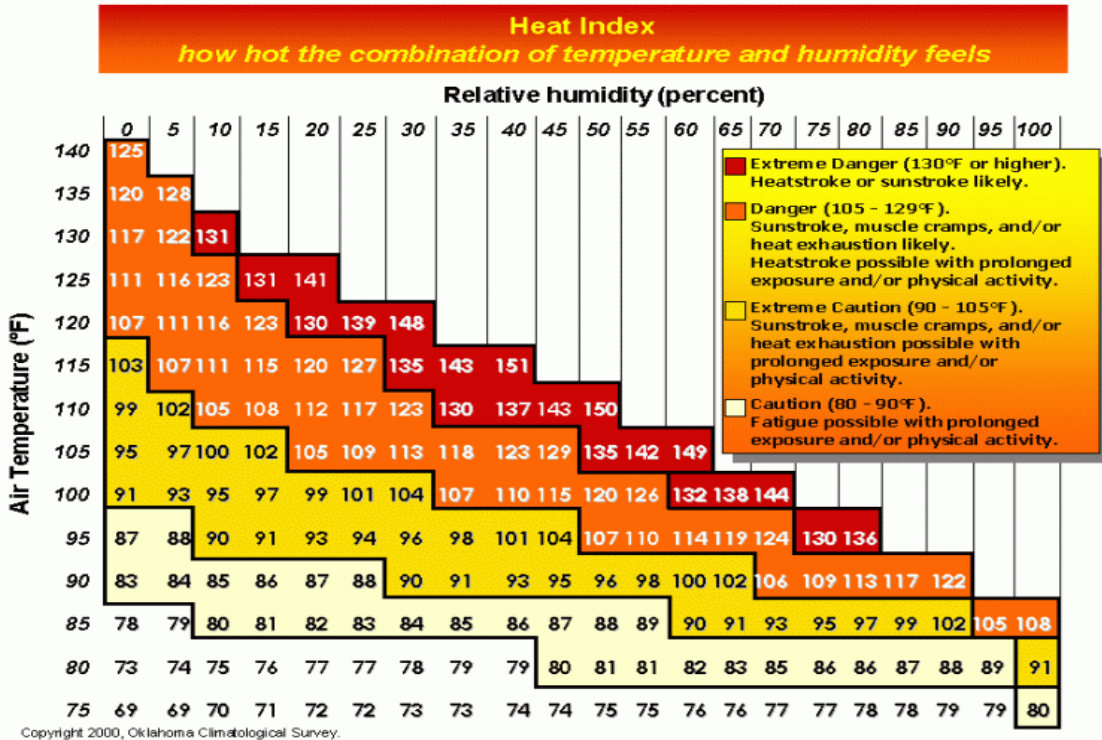
Air quality should be reviewed approximately two hours prior to the scheduled start of an outdoor activity and monitored when conditions are changing. The Parks and Recreation Director, or designee, may modify, postpone, relocate, or cancel an activity at any AQI level when local conditions, forecasts, visibility, smoke, participant population, or other circumstances indicate that continuing the activity may present an unreasonable health or safety risk.

- E. HEAT: Approximately 120 minutes prior to the start of the activity, temperature and heat index reading should be taken. ~~at the UW-W Weather page located at~~
~~<http://www.uww.edu/cls/geography-geology/weather>~~.

Programs that utilize volunteer coaches will provide heat related education materials to all coaches. The following are guidelines for coaches, program leaders and volunteers to follow with regards to Department sponsored activities for youth, including practices:

Heat Index 80-89	Use caution; monitor participants carefully for necessary action. Encourage additional fluid intake.
Heat Index 90-104	Use extreme caution; remove helmets and other equipment if not involved in contact. Fluid/shade/rest breaks must be taken every 20-25 minutes. Activity should be modified for less exertion. Consider reducing program length.
Heat Index 105	All outdoor programs are canceled. The National Weather Service office will issue a heat advisory when the heat index (combination of temperature and relative humidity) is 105 degrees or more. Indoor events in non-air conditioned buildings are also canceled.

IV. Guidelines



V. Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Parks and Recreation Board for any needed changes or revisions.

NOTE: A separate policy will be created for heat related concerns for programs that occur on artificial turf surfaces.