



Georgetown Soccer Association **Field Safety Policies**

Parent Seating Area During Team Practices:

Parents and families are not permitted to be in the team practice areas. Only players and their respective coaches should be on the practice areas. Parents are allowed to sit along the fenceline, picnic tables and GSA Pavillion areas. Please do not walk through the middle of practice fields, this is for the safety of both players practicing and the parents observing.

If you are a coach of a GSA Rec team and you have a child playing on another team, we ask that you also abide by this policy as well when not coaching your team. Please sit and observe practices from the designated areas listed above.

If you would like to walk or run around the complex during your player's practice, you may do this along the fence and tree line. Please keep non-practicing children brought to practices under your supervision at all times and do not allow them to bring rocks from the driveway area into the grass sitting area as this is dangerous to our field maintenance crew and equipment. Children are not allowed to play on any of the equipment or goals.

Player Drop Off For Practices:

If bad weather or lightning is in the forecast, we ask that parents do not drop their kids off for practice and LEAVE the facility. Please stay in the case of a possible practice delay or field closure due to weather.



Bad Weather Conditions:

In the event of bad weather, the fields will remain open unless the soccer fields become unplayable due to a dangerous playing surface or high winds. A dangerous playing surface is based on the amount of rainfall received within a short period of time. This will be determined by 3 pm. In the event that the fields are open and practices have begun, the coaching staff on site will decide if practices need to be delayed or cancelled based on real time conditions.

Bad Weather Cancellation Notification:

GSA will always attempt to be proactive in cancellations of practice or games due to bad weather. In the case of bad weather cancellations, you should check our website for field status. In addition, Coaches and Team Managers will be notified via the Coach/TM GroupMe communications to relay communications to our families.

Cold Weather: All activities at the GSA Fields will be cancelled if the air temperature is 35 degrees or lower OR the temperature with wind chill (the effective temperature) is 35 degrees or lower.

Excessive Heat Policy: GSA has combined many thoughtful considerations and reviewed many policies from different organizations to establish the policy identified below. If at any time you are concerned about the health and safety of your player and wish to remove them from practice, please feel free to do so by communicating with the coach so they are aware.

If the Heat Index is above the temp listed below, the following schedule should be followed for the duration of practice-

90 degrees – 25 minutes of practice with a 5 minute water break

100 degrees – 15 minutes of practice with a 5 minute water break

110 degrees – 10 minutes of practice with a 5 minute water break

Coaches should make every attempt possible to have breaks occur in shaded areas.

Remind players to bring extra water.

Coaches and players should all be instructed to monitor each other for signs of heat related injuries.



GSA Lightning Policy:

In the event of lightning, GSA operates on 20/30 rule. This means if a lightning strike occurs within 20 miles of the soccer fields, then fields are cleared for a minimum of 30 minutes. This is determined using our handheld lightning monitor.

GSA Lightning Procedures:

In the event of the soccer fields being cleared of teams due to lightning within 20 miles, it is vital that players, parents, coaches and volunteers get into their cars immediately. If the delay is extended to 45 minutes into the practice session, then that practice will be cancelled. For example, if practice begins at 6:00 PM and the last lightning strike occurred at 6:05 PM, then the earliest the players could return to the fields would be 6:50 PM. In this example, practice would be cancelled for the 6:00-7:30PM session. Remember to never stand in parking lots, under trees, under the pavilion, or anywhere near water during a lightning delay. Please get into your vehicles with the windows rolled up.

NO LIGHTNING SAFETY GUIDELINES CAN GUARANTEE ABSOLUTE SAFETY. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EVERY PLAYER AND PARENT TO BE AWARE OF WEATHER CONDITIONS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO BE SAFE. USE COMMON SENSE AND GOOD JUDGEMENT. PLAN AHEAD AND MAKE SAFETY YOUR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY.