



*MOVING TOGETHER*

**Policy Statement:**

The STAR Center reserves the right to cancel programs, classes, or events if inclement weather is forecasted or exists. Program Coordinator will utilize best judgment and policy procedures to keep participants, staff, and volunteers safe.

**General:**

To protect the health and safety of participants, spectators, volunteers, staff, and equipment, the STAR Center will use the following guidelines and procedures during inclement weather scenarios. The STAR Center reserves the right to cancel or modify activities due to weather conditions. Inclement weather will affect programs and facilities differently based on field/location, availability of shelter, and the severity of weather. The STAR Center will follow the general guidance of the National Weather Service (NWS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and Environmental Protection Agency for air quality related incidences. Please call the **STAR Center Hotline at 608-305-4601** for program cancellation information.

**Summer Weather Policy for Cancellation/ Delay/ Relocation:**

*Cancellation, pause, or delay of outdoor events, classes, and programs*

- Severe weather such as warnings for tornadoes, floods, and flash floods programs will be canceled.
- Forecasted weather that is not ideal for programming such as anticipated excessive rain, wind, or storms, programs will be canceled or delayed.
- Thunderstorms/ Lightning and severe wind.
  - If lightning is seen, outdoor programs will be delayed for 30 minutes. Participants will be asked to take shelter.
  - If thunder is heard, outdoor programs will be delayed for 30 minutes. Participants will be asked to take shelter.
- Excessive Heat: if the forecasted air temperature or heat index is expected to reach and sustain 100 degrees or more

- Air Quality: if the Air Quality Index (AQI) is expected to reach and sustain 'red-unhealthy' or index values of 151-200
- Outdoor programs lasting less than an hour, with access to shade and water may continue, or the ability to alter programming to lessen potential health impacts, may continue under the discretion of the Program Coordinator.
- Outdoor programs exceeding an hour may continue if an indoor location is secured and / or the period outdoors can be reduced to an hour.
- Impacts from weather events that have left facilities / outdoor space in poor condition such as ponding, storm debris, or other damage will result in cancellation.

### **Winter Weather Policy for Cancellation/ Delay/ Relocation:**

#### *Automatic Cancellation, Pause, or Delay of All Outdoor and Indoor Events and Programs*

- Blizzard or ice storm warning one hour within program / event start or end time
- Wind Chill Warning or if Wind Chill Index reaches -20 degrees
- The air temperature reaches -10 degrees or colder

#### *Potential Cancellation, Pause, or Delay of All Outdoor and Indoor Events and Programs*

- Winter Storm Warning or Snow: Snow event closings will be determined by the Program Coordinator on a case-by-case basis
- Cold: Length of time outdoors may be limited for certain programs, determined on a case-by-case basis by the Program Coordinator

### **Weather Updates and Communication:**

- Weather events can change rapidly and forecasting can be difficult. As such, we encourage all participants to use their best judgment and emphasize safety.
- Weather Watches: In the event a severe weather watch is issued, Program Coordinators are asked to stay weather aware and to have a plan in place if weather conditions change.
- If conditions change less than an hour prior to STAR Center Programs, a decision will be made on-site
- STAR Center programs, classes, events, or facility closings will be shared as quickly as possible in the following ways:
  - Weather Hotline: 608-305-4601
  - Email to registered participants via TeamSnap

### **Refunds:**

Refunds will not be issued due to inclement weather. Program Coordinators will make their best efforts to reschedule events and programs; however, this is not always possible. Makeup information will be posted and shared as soon as known.

## **Co-Sponsored Events, Classes, and Programs**

If STAR Center is co-sponsoring an event, class, or program with another organization, STAR will follow the weather procedures of the host.

### **Operating Procedures:**

- *Severe Weather Warning:* In case of severe weather sighting, the issuing of a severe weather warning, or a weather siren sounded, all unsheltered outdoor activities must be stopped.
- *Severe Thunderstorm Warning:* Outside programs will cease or observe a delayed start, if necessary.
- *Lightning / Thunder:* Upon first sight of lightning or first sound of thunder, all outdoor programs must stop immediately. No outdoor activity can resume until 30 minutes after the last detection of lightning or sound of thunder. Programs will be moved indoors if possible.
- *Tornado:* In the event of tornado warning or sirens, immediately seek the best possible shelter available. Indoor events will be moved to interior rooms or basements.
- *Heat:* If high temperatures are forecasted, activities will be moved indoors if possible. Programs may be altered to lessen physical exertion or to take more breaks. Programs will be canceled if air temperature and/or heat index reach 100 degrees.
- *Snow:* Snow event closings will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Programs may need to be canceled if facilities are not appropriately plowed or shoveled.
- *Extreme Cold:* Programs will be canceled if temperatures reach -10 degrees or -20 degrees wind chill.
- *Weather Watches:* In the event a severe weather watch is issued, Program Coordinators are asked to stay weather aware and to have a plan in place if weather conditions change.