



Mather Sports Complex  
3755 Schriever Ave., Mather, CA 95655  
Phone: 916-362-1704/ [www.crpdp.com](http://www.crpdp.com)

## Inclement Weather Procedures - Athletic Fields

The purpose of this document is to inform the Cordova Recreation & Park District (CRPD) athletic field user groups about the procedures brought upon by inclement weather and unsafe playing conditions. An effective field maintenance program is essential to prevent personal injury and damage to playing surfaces. User groups are expected to accept and adhere to these procedures. Permits will be cancelled when participant health and safety is threatened due to unsafe conditions, or damage to athletic fields.

### Procedures:

CRPD staff shall have authority to close athletic fields owned and operated by CRPD. To determine playability, under periods of severe rain and inclement weather, CRPD staff will assess field integrity and determine the playability of athletic fields. CRPD staff will contact permit holders by email and/or phone for cancellation notifications. User groups are also expected to self-assess athletic field playability, and cancel use when conditions pose a threat to player safety and/or field integrity. If a user group determines unsafe athletic field condition, they are to self-cancel field use and contact CRPD staff within 24 hours. All representatives of user groups such as coaches, officials, tournament directors, and permit holders, have the responsibility to recognize and report unsafe athletic field conditions.

### Synthetic Turf Fields at Mather Sports Complex:

These procedures, apart from thunder/lightning storms, are not intended for closures of synthetic turf fields. Synthetic surfaces will not close during periods of severe rain and other inclement weather, unless it is determined by CRPD staff or user group representatives that the weather creates an increased chance of injury to participants and/or damage to the surface.

### Thunder/Lightning Storms:

Following guidance from the [National Weather Service](http://www.nws.gov) regarding thunder/lightning storms, if you see lightning, hear thunder or if the skies look threatening play, should be stop immediately. User groups should not resume outdoor activities until 30 minutes after the storm has passed. For a full list of details regarding thunder/lightning storms including how to be prepared, where people go for safe shelter, and what should be done if someone is struck by lightning please visit: <https://www-mo.weather.gov/safety/lightning-sports>.

### Criteria for Establishing Field Playability:

It is the intention of CRPD to make every effort to leave the athletic fields open for use. Ultimately it will be the responsibility of user groups to suspend play on a field when one the following conditions exist:

### Baseball/Softball Natural Grass - Dirt Infields:

Infields shall be deemed unsafe and unplayable when the following conditions are present:

- Heavy rains that cause the field to become muddy and or slippery
- Standing water (puddles) within the base path and or batter's box
- When stepping on the infield dirt, the depth of your footprint is greater than 1 inch
- When any of the above conditions are present around the pitching mound and or pitching area/circle

### **Soccer, Multipurpose Natural Grass Fields & Baseball/Softball Natural Grass Outfields:**

Grass Fields & Grass Outfields shall be deemed unsafe and unplayable when any of the following conditions are present:

- Standing water (puddles) encompassing a single playing position (*positions will be determined based on user group*)
- Feet suction or stick to the ground as you walk within the majority of a single playing position
- Player footprints fill with water in the majority of a single playing position
- The depth of your footprint is greater than 1 inch in the majority of a single playing position
- Grass is easily dislodged from the playing surface

### **User Groups Responsibilities:**

CRPD requests that individuals and user groups refrain or limit their use of heavy traffic areas during practices, regardless of weather, to assist in providing the best field conditions possible.

- Once the field condition is deemed unplayable, permit holders will be notified by email and/or phone as soon as possible, typically this is 72-24 hours prior to permitted use. The determinations/decisions are not negotiable.
- CRPD may declare some fields subject to re-evaluation. These fields will be evaluated by the user group at game time for playability. The user group must use the same playability criteria stated in this document.
- User groups are expected to make educated and responsible decisions regarding field condition playability, keeping in mind the current and future quality of turf. Decisions regarding playability must be made using the above criteria stated in this document.
- User groups failing to follow these procedures will be subject to cancellation of existing reservations and loss of future use. Fields considered too wet and/or muddy by CRPD staff will be monitored for misuse.
- User groups witnessing misuse of fields by other scheduled or unscheduled users are advised to contact Recreation Supervisor Nina Sinor by email [nsinor@crpd.com](mailto:nsinor@crpd.com) or by phone at 916-362-1704.
- In the event athletic fields sustain damages due to inappropriate use; scheduled use of the field will be suspended until the field can be renovated and returned to a playable condition. Costs associated with related renovations will be the responsibility of the user group. Said user group may be banned from future use, loss of deposit, and cancelation of permit(s) as determined by management.