



## **DIAMOND CONDITIONS / WEATHER POLICIES**

GEMSA plays on various diamonds throughout the region, and it is impossible for league officials to visit them regularly to report maintenance or safety concerns to the appropriate association.

We ask that coaches walk the diamonds before games or practices and report concerns directly to the association responsible for the diamonds.

Contacts and links can be found on the GEMSA website. If a diamond has a significant safety concern, or if a maintenance issue remains unresolved for an extended period, please notify the GEMSA by e-mailing details and photos of the issue to [President@gemsa.ca](mailto:President@gemsa.ca)

## **DIAMOND CLOSURE INFORMATION**

GEMSA does not have access to any rainout or diamond closure information that is not publicly available and does not get advanced notice from cities regarding the closure or possible closure of diamonds.

DO NOT contact GEMSA regarding possible closures due to weather. If unsure about diamond closures due to weather, coaches are required to contact the field closure information line directly.

**All available Rainout Lines are listed on the GEMSA website and linked on the Parkland Softball Website under Policies. *Please remember that weather in Alberta may move quickly. It is very possible to have good weather conditions by game time even if it is raining in the late afternoon. In these variable situations, please ensure you always check the rainout line to see if the diamonds are officially closed.***

**Any game canceled by Coaches prior to an Umpire call will be considered a forfeit. If a game does not have an umpire scheduled a designated person on the home team, shall check the condition of the diamond and contact the away team with pictures. Failure to do so will end in a forfeit for the home team. Coaches from both teams must agree to cancel and reschedule.**



## **LIGHTNING POLICY**

When considering lightning safety, GEMSA uses the 30/30 rule. When lightning is observed, play stops and the time between the lightning and thunder is counted. When you count 30 seconds or fewer between lightning and thunder, leave the field, take shelter immediately and remain sheltered for 30 minutes after the last sound of thunder.

## **AIR QUALITY POLICY**

### **AIR QUALITY HEALTH INDEX (AQHI)**

1. AQHI of 7 or higher means that play will be suspended immediately.
2. GEMSA will notify teams and umpires by 5 PM if the AQHI is above 7 in the area of the scheduled game.
3. Teams will continue to monitor levels during the game and notify the umpires if the AQHI reaches 7
4. In practice situations, athletic activity should be adjusted through reduced intensity, reduced duration, and providing rest periods.

## **INFORMATION & DEFINITIONS**

The Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) is a recognized risk management measurement which describes a local reading of air quality as it relates to human health.

The AQHI is not real time reporting and can have a lag-time of over one hour. If air quality is changing during athletic activity, be aware of the common symptoms of irritated eyes, coughing, and difficulty breathing in addition to the reported AQHI index.

AQHI index of over 7 indicates a "high risk" from air pollutants.

AQHI index of between 4 and 6 indicates ongoing AQHI air monitoring should be initiated in order to identify to the umpire and Tournament Director if the index should reach 7 or higher.

Air Quality Index Website(s)

[Alberta Air Quality Index Alberta](#)

[Air Quality Health Index \(AQHI\) - Environment Canada](#)