



SPRAGUE LITTLE LEAGUE

RAINOUT POLICY

RAINOUT GUIDELINES

A game is considered a rainout if:

- There is abundant, standing water on the field that is unable to be removed and it is still raining.
- Deep muddy footprints remain clearly visible in the infield dirt, indicating soggy, dangerously slippery, or unplayable conditions.

Notes:

- Light rain typically does not cause a game cancelation.
- Heavy rain or unsafe/unplayable field conditions requiring significant correction will result in cancelation.

DRYING OUT THE FIELD

- Use landscape rakes to push water off the field; do not push water from the infield dirt into the outfield grass (prevents lip formation).
- When possible, spread water and scarify the surface to help it sink in.
- After raking, if wet spots remain, use Turface on the infield. More than one bag is usually ineffective if the field is not playable.
- Turface will be stored with chalk in the shed during the season.

COMMUNICATION

Updates will be provided through:

- The league website.
- The league Facebook and Instagram pages.
- Mass email notifications.
- Team managers: Contact your league representative with questions.
- Players: Contact your team manager.

If no notification is provided through any channel, assume the game is ON.

WHO MAKES THE DECISION?

- Before the game begins / Teams arrive: Decisions are made by the, President, Safety Officer, Field Maintenance if designated by the President, and/or the Board of Directors.
- Game Time Decisions: Managers of both teams may consult after walking the field and decide to play or cancel based on the guidelines above. (LL Rule 3.10 (a))
- After the game begins: All start/stop decisions are made exclusively by the UIC/umpires.
- Important: A manager or coach may not withdraw their team from a game without following directives in this policy. Doing so results in an automatic forfeit. (LL Rule 4.15 (a))

Additional Notes:

- The home manager is responsible for notifying the opposing manager of a rainout.
- Weather can change quickly; rain at 4 PM may clear by 5 PM.
- See References below for additional information.

REFERENCES

Little League Rule Book: Appendix A – Lightning Safety Guidelines

<https://www.littleleague.org/playing-rules/appendices/appendix-a/>

Little League Rule Book: Rule 4.01(d):

As soon as the home team's batting order is handed to the Umpire-in-Chief, the umpires are in charge of the playing field and from that moment shall have sole authority to determine when a game shall be called, halted, or resumed on account of weather or the conditions of the playing field. (also covered in 3.10 (b))

Little League Rule Book: 3.10 (a):

The managers of both teams shall agree on the fitness of the playing field before the game starts. In the event that the two managers cannot agree, the president or duly delegated representative shall make the determination.