HMMS Youth Soccer Association
Inclement Weather Policy

Games are normally played rain or shine. However, it is the policy of the HMMS Youth Soccer Association to play games only when the conditions are safe for the participants and when playing would not unduly damage the playing surface. Waterlogged fields create frustrating and hazardous playing conditions, and the fields become extremely vulnerable to heavy damage, which affects future playability in both the short- and long-term.

GAME CANCELLATIONS (Prior to Game Time)

- It is occasionally possible to make that determination on Friday evenings, but that decision is usually made early on Saturday mornings.
- Only the Club President or designated alternate can cancel a game or games for unplayable field conditions.
- If play is canceled for the day, we will place a notification on the HMMS website, as well as update the message on the coaches' HMMS Weather Hotline.
- Coaches are expected to attempt to notify their players through phone calls and/or through e-mail notification.

GAME CANCELLATIONS (Game Time)

- In the absence of any official prior notification regarding weather-related game cancellations, teams shall report to the field.
- Please be aware that games are normally only called off **at game time** due to weather or field conditions **at game time**.
- Game time cancellation decisions are the sole responsibility of the referee(s) [**NOTE:** *For U06 and U08 age groups, the coaches shall jointly make this determination.]*.
- Referees may elect to call the game, play the game, or delay the start of the game.
- If you are the **COACH** for a game that is cancelled due to weather conditions, you are still required to pay the referee(s) that show up for the game.
- IF WE DO NOT PLAY AT LEAST HALF OF THE GAME, THEN IT IS NOT A REGULATION GAME SO THE REFEREE DOES NOT GET PAID. IF THE REFEREE IS PAID AND IT IS NOT CONSIDERED A "REGULATION GAME" THEN THAT REFEREE HAS TO REFEREE THE MAKE-UP GAME. I CAN NOT GUARANTEE THAT WE CAN GET THE SAME REFEREE TO DO THE MAKE-UP GAME.

GAME STOPPAGE PRIOR TO COMPLETION

- When thunder is heard, or a cloud-to-ground lightning bolt is seen, the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play and take shelter immediately.
- Referee stoppage due to weather related conditions e.g. Lightning, severe rain, deterioration of field: game postponement of 30 minutes, if circumstances do not change so the game can be restarted, the game will be rescheduled unless already in second half.
- If game is in second half, score stands as is.
- Team falling below minimum number of players (7 for 11 v 11's and 5 for 8v8's) will result in forfeiture of the game.
- Thirty-minute rule. Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or flash of lightning is witnessed prior to resuming play.
- Any subsequent thunder or lightning after the beginning of the 30-thirty count, reset the clock and another 30-thirty minute count should begin.