



WEATHER & ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY POLICY

Forza Soccer Academy | Indoor travel decisions | Outdoor weather and municipal field use

1. Purpose

Forza Soccer Academy is committed to protecting participants, coaches, officials, volunteers, families and spectators during Academy programming and travel to facilities. Forza generally operates indoors from late September through May 1, so winter weather decisions relate primarily to safe travel and facility access. Outdoor programming begins when municipal fields are officially open. This policy establishes a consistent approach to severe weather, air quality, extreme heat, winter travel conditions, municipal field conditions and other environmental hazards.

2. Authority and Decision-Making

Forza will apply the following order of authority when deciding whether Academy activity may proceed:

- A closure, restriction or facility direction issued by the City of Saskatoon, City of Regina, facility owner or permit authority takes precedence over the Forza schedule.
- For sanctioned games or competitions, the applicable Saskatchewan Soccer, league, competition and Match Official requirements apply.
- For Forza-run training, camps and other Academy activity, the Technical Director, Executive Director, designated program lead or lead coach may delay, modify, relocate, suspend or cancel activity when weather, travel, facility or field conditions are unsafe or likely to damage the playing surface.
- A coach or Match Official may stop activity at any time when conditions deteriorate, even if no formal closure, advisory or cancellation has been issued.

3. Lightning and Severe Weather

Forza follows the Canada Soccer Lightning Safety / Severe Weather Policy. If thunder is heard, outdoor activity stops immediately and participants move to a safe enclosed building or a fully enclosed hard-roofed vehicle.

- Activity will not resume until at least 30 minutes after the last audible thunder.
- Open shelters, tents, dugouts, trees, fences, goalposts and other exposed structures are not considered safe lightning shelter.
- For matches, the Match Official has final authority to delay, suspend or restart play. For Forza training and camps, the lead coach or designated Forza decision-maker has that authority.
- Where severe wind, hail, tornado warnings, flooding or other dangerous weather creates an immediate risk, activity will be suspended regardless of whether thunder is present.

4. Extreme Heat

Forza follows Saskatchewan Soccer's Extreme Heat Event guidance and considers the local 'feels like' / humidex value, field surface, sun exposure, wind, participant age, acclimatization and individual health needs. Artificial turf and other heat-absorbing surfaces may justify earlier modification or cancellation.

Humidex	Risk	Forza Action
Below 30	Low to moderate	Normal activity; monitor conditions and hydration.
30-34	Medium	Monitor athletes at least every 25 minutes; reduce practice length as needed.
35-39	High	Provide water breaks; monitor at least every 25 minutes; reduce practice intensity/length.
40+	Extreme	Cancel or relocate outdoor activity.

- Players must have reasonable access to water. Additional breaks, shade, reduced intensity or shortened sessions may be introduced at any temperature when participant safety warrants it.

5. Air Quality and Wildfire Smoke

Soccer is a strenuous, high-exposure outdoor activity. Forza will monitor the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) and current Saskatchewan Soccer guidance, with particular attention to wildfire smoke and rapid changes in local conditions.

- For Academy-run outdoor training, camps and events, an AQHI of 7 or higher is a cancellation/rescheduling trigger unless Saskatchewan Soccer has issued a newer applicable direction.
- For league or competition matches, Forza will follow the current threshold and procedure established by Saskatchewan Soccer and the applicable competition operator.
- Activity may be modified, stopped or cancelled at a lower AQHI when smoke, local emissions, participant symptoms or rapidly worsening conditions create a safety concern.
- Players and families may choose not to participate during poor air-quality conditions without penalty.

6. City of Saskatoon and City of Regina Outdoor Field Use

Forza will comply with municipal field closures, restrictions, permit conditions and field-use guidance in the city where programming is taking place.

City of Saskatoon

- Fields will not be used when they are wet and soft or where standing water is present.
- Play will be discontinued during heavy rain or after prolonged rain when continued use may damage the playing surface.
- If water 'squishes' underfoot or the turf is unstable, the field will not be used.

City of Regina

- Forza will check and follow the City's published athletic-field status and any specific closure or restriction.
- If inclement weather occurs after the City's status update, Forza coaches remain responsible for participant safety, assessing field conditions and stopping play where turf damage may occur.

7. Winter Weather and Travel Safety - Indoor Season

Winter weather decisions focus on whether players, families and coaches can travel safely to and from indoor facilities. Forza may delay or cancel indoor practices, games or other activities when severe winter weather or road conditions create an unreasonable travel risk.

- Cancellation or delay may be considered during blizzard conditions, heavy snowfall, freezing rain, significantly reduced visibility, dangerous road conditions, facility closures, or official weather/travel advisories.
- Decisions will consider conditions in Saskatoon or Regina, the timing and severity of the event, travel distances for participants and coaches, facility status, and whether conditions are expected to worsen during the scheduled activity.
- Families may choose not to travel when they believe conditions are unsafe. A player will not be penalized for missing an Academy activity because of a reasonable weather-related travel safety concern.

8. Communication and Responsibility

- Forza will communicate cancellations, relocations or major modifications through the Academy's normal communication channels as soon as reasonably possible.
- Families should continue to monitor TeamLinkt and other official Forza communications close to session time because conditions can change quickly.
- Coaches must know the relevant municipal field-use requirements and weather guidance for their location and should escalate uncertain situations to the Technical Director or Executive Director.
- Where a sanctioned competition or facility operator makes the decision, Forza will communicate and comply with that decision.

9. Weather-Related Illness or Injury

If a participant shows signs of heat illness, respiratory distress, lightning injury or another serious weather-related medical concern, activity will stop for that participant and the Emergency Action Plan will be followed. Emergency medical services will be contacted when symptoms are severe, rapidly worsening or potentially life-threatening.

10. Review and Current Guidance

This policy is intended to operate alongside current Canada Soccer, Saskatchewan Soccer and municipal guidance. Where those authorities update their requirements, Forza will follow the current requirement and revise this policy as needed.

Source Guidance

- [Canada Soccer - Lightning Safety / Severe Weather Policy](#)
- [Saskatchewan Soccer - Section 13 Risk Management \(Extreme Heat and Air Quality\)](#)
- [City of Saskatoon - Sport Fields / Inclement Weather Guidance](#)
- [City of Regina - Athletic Fields & Ball Diamonds / Field Status](#)