



D15 Interscholastic Sports/Intramurals Hazardous Weather Guidelines

REVISED 7/2/2019

District 15 is committed to the safety and wellbeing of our students. For that reason D15 is aligning itself with the Hazardous Weather Conditions Guidelines of our surrounding high school districts, 211 & 214 as well the Play it Safe in the Heat guidelines from IHSA -- all of which use the WetBulb Globe Temperature (WBGT). Beginning with the 2018 Spring Soccer Season, District 15 weather guidelines will mirror the Mid Suburban League (MSL), Districts 211, 214 and IHSA to determine if conditions are appropriate for our students to participate in outdoor athletic activities. This includes intramurals, interscholastic sports and outdoor physical education activities.

The **WetBulb Globe Temperature (WBGT)** will be the standard used in determining if it is safe for athletes to compete. The WBGT is used by OSHA and the United States Military when determining temperature and if it is safe to work outdoors. The WBGT is different than the "heat index" or what is referred to as "feels like temperature".

What is Wet Bulb Globe Temperature?

According to the National Weather Service, "The WetBulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) is a measure of the heat stress in direct sunlight, which takes into account: temperature, humidity, wind speed, sun angle and cloud cover (solar radiation). This differs from the heat index, which takes into consideration the temperature and humidity, and is calculated for shady areas."

	WBGT	HEAT INDEX
Measured in the Sun	✓	✗
Measured in the Shade	✗	✓
Uses Temperature	✓	✓
Uses Relative Humidity	✓	✓
Uses Wind	✓	✗
Uses Cloud Cover	✓	✗
Uses Sun Angle	✓	✗



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Why is D15 changing from “heat index” to WBGT?

To maintain the same safety standards for our athletes as our surrounding high schools, D15 is adopting these new heat guidelines. The Illinois High School Association (IHSA), the governing body of high school athletics in Illinois enacted new heat guidelines that use the WBGT. The WBGT is used by OSHA and the United States Military when determining temperature and if it is safe to work.

What is the difference between WBGT “action” temperatures and the “Heat Index”?

WBGT is measured in the sun whereas the Heat Index is measured in the shade. WBGT also takes wind, cloud cover, the angle of the sun, relative humidity and the temperature into account. In some cases the calculated action temperatures will be lower with WBGT than when using the Heat Index.

Could there be a conflict between WBGT and Heat Index readings? How will that be resolved?

Even if the Heat Index provides a reading that says athletes may play, if the WBGT reading indicates outdoor activities should be cancelled, D15 will cancel outdoor activities for all schools.

What do the different color WBGT “Zones” represent?

Table 1 on the following page, along with the chart provides detailed information on each zone.

- **GREEN ZONE ≤ 79.9 degrees F**
 - All sports events will be held
- **YELLOW ZONE 80.0-84.4 degrees F**
 - All sports events will be held
- **ORANGE ZONE 84.6-87.5 degrees F**
 - All sports events will be held
 - Maximum of 2 hours on the field
- **RED ZONE 87.6 -87.5 degrees F**
 - All sports events will be held
 - Maximum of 1 hour on the field
- **BLACK ZONE ≥ 90 degrees F**
 - No outdoor athletic activities will take place



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D15 Protocols for determining the WBGT

District 15 will utilize DTN Weather Sentry to provide forecasts and the WBGT readings. Decisions about play will be made by either the District Athletic Coordinator or Assistant Coordinator. When decisions to cancel practices and events are made the Athletic Coordinator will notify building principals, PE teachers and appropriate coaches within a timely manner.

The following table and chart will be used to make decisions regarding hazardous weather conditions and to ensure the safety and well being of our students.

Table 1: WBGT Temperature Readings and Corresponding Actions

WBGT TEMPERATURE	ZONE	ACTIONS
≤79.9 degrees F	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All sports will take place• Athletes are expected to bring an ample supply of water (At least one water bottle) to practice. Athletes are able to take in as much water as they desire.• Optional water breaks will be provided every 30 minutes for 10 minutes in duration.• Coaches will watch/monitor athletes carefully for necessary action.
80.0-84.5 degrees F	YELLOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All sports will take place• Athletes are expected to bring an ample supply of water (At least one water bottle) to practice. Athletes are able to take in as much water as they desire.• Optional water breaks will be provided every 30 minutes for 10 minutes in duration.• Coaches will watch/monitor athletes carefully for necessary action.• Monitor for increased heat conditions or if personnel on the field suspects potential heat stress play will be stopped.



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WBGT TEMPERATURE	ZONE	ACTIONS
84.6-87.5 degrees F	ORANGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All sports will take place• Athletes are expected to bring an ample supply of water (At least one water bottle) to practice. Athletes are able to take in as much water as they desire.• Water breaks will be provided every 30 minutes for 10 minutes in duration.• Coaches/Officials will provide a 10 minute break for every 30 minutes of practice or competition.• Coaches will watch/monitor athletes carefully for necessary action.• Monitor for increased heat conditions or if personnel on the field suspects potential heat stress play will be stopped.• Maximum 2 hours of play.
87.6-89.9 degrees F	RED	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All sports will take place• Athletes are expected to bring an ample supply of water (At least one water bottle) to practice. Athletes are able to take in as much water as they desire.• Water breaks will be provided every 30 minutes for 10 minutes in duration.• Coaches/Officials will provide a 10 minute break for every 30 minutes of practice or competition.• Coaches will watch/monitor athletes carefully for necessary action.• Maximum 1 hour of play while temperature is in this range. If temperature drops to Orange or below, play may continue for an additional hour.• Monitor for increased heat conditions or if personnel on the field suspects potential heat stress play will be stopped.
≥90 degrees F	BLACK	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No outdoor athletic activities will take place.

