

Rain-outs: ball diamonds

City of Rochester Hills Parks & Natural Resources Dept.
1-5-21



innovative by nature

Rainouts are determined ***ONLY by our staff or by an umpire***. Never by the team(s) or coaches. We need to be fair in applying the same criteria all across the board, and can not leave it up to the individual teams. What somebody might call "too much rain" is only a "drizzle" to somebody else. And just because it rains at somebody's house does not mean it rains equally at Borden Park.

When do we decide to cancel?

There is no "set" time to cancel the fields.

At some point in time our staff makes a judgment decision based on the criteria listed below. We know we can't make everybody happy every time; some people want every possible effort to get the game in (wait as long as possible with canceling), and some people don't want to drive to the game and be turned around. However, we will make the call as soon as we feel that the field is unsafe to use. Ultimately, this could be any time shortly before (or even during) the reservation.

What criteria do we use to cancel?

Cancelling a ball diamond reservation depends on any of the following criteria:

- The field's current (and recent) condition: standing water, muddy areas, soggy areas, size of the affected surfaces, safety aspects (slippery) etc.
- How much rain there has been recently
- Weather forecast (wind, rain, temperature): how likely is it for the field to dry before the next reservation?
- Game starting time (late in day allows for later decision and longer drying period)
- The field's carrying capacity (each field drains differently)
- Our staff size (how many employees do we have available to try to fix the fields before the reservation – if possible)

Borden Park:

- Our staff looks at the field condition and determines if the field is SAFE to use or not. This will vary from field to field, based on each field's carrying capacity and drainage situations.
- Our staff will always agree with any decision made by an official umpire (on or at the field). At times we may even ask the umpire for their opinion and ask them to make the final decision.
- Reservations with lightning could resume after 15 minutes (or as regulated by your League's policies) of last lightning if the infield itself is safe to use. Hopefully the next reservation after yours will not start right after your reserved ending time, so that you could extend your field time. That is something we would discuss and resolve at that moment at the field.

Helen Allen and Avondale Parks:

We have no staff there after the Maintenance Staff is finished at those parks, so ultimately it is up to the umpires (at the field) to decide if those fields are safe to use. The referee or your club's Coordinator (who made the reservation) needs to contact Borden Park by email (see info below) so that we can credit your reservation.

Credit:

- If infield conditions are unsafe; the reservation gets cancelled and credited for the unused portion of the reservation.
- Practices are usually pro-rated. Game refunds are determined based on scores or number of innings, in conjunction with your umpires or League Coordinator.
- Any credit that you have (from rain-outs or other cancellations)
 - can be used at any time in the future for new/additional/makeup reservations,
 - or you can request an actual refund
 - However, refunds take some time because they have to be approved and processed at City Hall.
 - They also are very labor intensive for City Hall staff, so we prefer to handle any refunds collectively at the end of your permit.
- Makeup reservations with rainout credit are handled the same as any new reservation (same procedure), based on availability.
 - Please use the [Availability Calendars](#) on our web site.
 - Makeup reservations will be charged at full standard rate, since your rained-out reservation was credited on your permit.

If it rains **BEFORE** your reservation:

- If our staff determines it is unsafe *before* your reservation starts, we will call you (the permit holder) as soon as possible to notify you or discuss. *If we do not call you: assume your field is playable.*
- If we have enough staff (not in early spring or late fall) we will try to fix the infield if the weather has improved before a reservation starts. That is why we sometimes don't call "too soon". However, repairing the field is not always possible depending on how severe the conditions are, the number of fields reserved, how much staff we have available, and other responsibilities that need to be handled.

If it happens **DURING** your reservation:

- Make sure you connect with the Borden Park Supervisor on duty to discuss the time span for credit or delays and extensions. We always have an employee at Borden during any field reservation.
- Our staff is scheduled to depart at specific times at the end of the day, so late extensions may not always be possible.
- You should be able to find an employee at/near the Borden Park Central Office in the brown dome building by the flag pole. We also have an employee at the Batting Cages (if they are open).

Rain-out hot line: 248-841-2680.

- In addition to calling each affected permit holder by phone, we will also update the rain-out hot line to specify which fields are closed/cancelled.
- Some fields may be cancelled while others are safe and playable.
- We update the rain-out message as soon as possible after we make any decisions.
- Sometimes we update the message several times during the day, depending on changing weather and field conditions.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Borden Park Office: 248-656-4797

Email: fielddeservations@rochesterhills.org