

# Rain-outs: soccer fields

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



innovative by nature

## Who can cancel?

Rainouts are determined **ONLY by our staff or by a referee.** Never by the team(s) or coaches/managers.

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 soccer field's 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)?
- 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)
- Age group scheduled to use the field (younger ages or adults)

## 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 referee. At times we may even ask the referee for their opinion and ask them to make the final decision.
- Lightning does not automatically cancel your reservation. Reservations with lightning can resume 15 minutes (or as regulated by your League's policies) after last lightning if the field 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 our staff would discuss and resolve with you at that moment at the field.

## Spencer Park:

We have no guaranteed staff there, so ultimately it is up to the referees 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:

- Please do not assume our Office Staff will automatically apply any credit to your reservation.
- To receive any credit, you must tell your League Coordinator (who made the reservation) to contact Borden Park by email (see info below) so that we can discuss and apply any credit to your reservation.
  - It also helps if you find and notify the Park Supervisor (on duty) to discuss the (credit) situation.
  - You typically 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).
- If field conditions are unsafe during the ***entire portion of the reserved time***; the reservation qualifies for full credit.
- If ***part of the game*** was played and the game qualified to be used in the league's standings, then the reservation does not receive credit.
- Camps are usually pro-rated.
- 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 standard rate, because 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 it happens **DURING** your reservation:

- Make sure you connect with the Park Supervisor on duty to discuss the time span for credit or delays and extensions. See info above. We always have an employee in the park during any field reservation.
- Please note our staff is scheduled to depart at specific times at the end of the day, so evening extensions (for games under the lights) may not always be possible.
- You typically 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 specific 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 contact us if you have any questions.

**Borden Park Office: 248-656-4797** (not staffed in evenings or on weekends)

**Email: [fieldreservations@rochesterhills.org](mailto:fieldreservations@rochesterhills.org)**