



## Game and Practice Cancellation Policy

### INCLEMENT WEATHER - PERMIT CANCELLATIONS BY THE MUNICIPALITY

Diamond closures normally occur as a result of bad weather on the day of the cancellation. However, from time to time, inclement weather from the previous day(s) may affect the playability of a diamond for the following day(s). As a result, there may be occasions where the municipality closes a diamond even though weather conditions appear favourable.

The applicable municipality (i.e., the **Town of Aurora** or the **Township of King**) will notify the AKBA by email when a diamond closure occurs and the corresponding permits are cancelled.

These notifications are normally received around **4:00 p.m.**, which can make it challenging for volunteers to communicate cancellations to all affected participants in a timely manner. The AKBA will make every reasonable effort to communicate this information as quickly as possible.

The Town of Aurora posts field closure notices on its website and offers a subscription service for field-related alerts. On days with inclement weather, participants are encouraged to consult the Town's website or social media channels for updates.

AKBA players, coaches, and families **must respect the decision of the municipalities**. If a user group is found using a diamond for which the permit has been cancelled, or when they do not hold a valid permit, the association's **future permit allocations may be jeopardized**.

Any decisions regarding compliance with municipal permit requirements shall be made by the AKBA Board of Directors in its sole discretion.

### INCLEMENT WEATHER - PERMITS NOT CANCELLED BY THE MUNICIPALITY

Even if permits have **not been cancelled by the municipality**, the AKBA may determine that weather conditions are severe enough to cancel all activities in the interest of safety or quality of play. Such determinations will be made **no later than 5:30 p.m.** and communicated to all Head Coaches.

If no such determination is made (i.e. permits have not been cancelled), but inclement weather is expected or ongoing:

- the **Head Coach** of each team is responsible for assessing the condition of the diamond and determining whether it is safe and suitable to proceed with a **practice**.
- For competitive (HP/rep/select) games, the **Head Coach of each team**, in consultation with the **opposing team**, is responsible for determining whether a game should be cancelled **prior to arrival**.

- Once both teams have arrived for a game, the **plate umpire(s)** will determine whether the diamond and/or weather conditions allow the game to proceed.
  - The umpire’s decision regarding **playability, delays, or suspension due to weather is final.**
  - Players, coaches, and spectators are expected to **respect the umpire’s authority and decision.**
  - If a coach or parent has concerns regarding a decision made during a game, they are asked to raise those concerns **after the game** with the appropriate Board representative:
    - **VP House League** – for House League matters
    - **VP Competitive Programs** – for Rep or Select matters
  - Concerns should **not be raised during the game** or in a manner intended to influence the umpire’s decision. However, if a coach reasonably believes that the **safety or welfare of players is at risk**, they may respectfully request that the umpire **reconsider the decision.**

### LIGHTENING AND SEVERE WEATHER PROTOCOL

If **lightning is seen or thunder is heard**, play must be **immediately suspended** and all participants must leave the playing field and seek appropriate shelter.

Play may only resume once **30 minutes have passed since the last sighting of lightning or sound of thunder.**

If lightning or severe weather continues and safe playing conditions cannot be restored within a reasonable period of time, the umpire may **suspend or terminate the game.**

For practices, the **Head Coach** is responsible for suspending activities and ensuring that all players seek safe shelter.

At no time should players remain on the field or in open areas during lightning activity.

### AIR QUALITY AND WILDFIRE SMOKE

From time to time, air quality in Ontario may be negatively impacted by **wildfire smoke or other environmental conditions**, resulting in elevated air pollution levels.

The AKBA will monitor the **Air Quality Health Index (AQHI)** issued by **Environment Canada** when making decisions regarding outdoor baseball activities.

#### Air Quality Guidelines

The following guidelines will generally be used when determining whether activities should proceed:

AQHI Level	Health Risk	AKBA Guideline
1–3	Low Risk	All games and practices may proceed as scheduled.
4–6	Moderate Risk	Activities may proceed, but coaches should monitor players for respiratory discomfort and consider reducing strenuous activity.

<b>AQHI Level</b>	<b>Health Risk</b>	<b>AKBA Guideline</b>
<b>7-10</b>	High Risk	The AKBA may modify, postpone, or cancel games and practices, particularly for younger players or those with respiratory conditions.
<b>10+</b>	Very High Risk	All games and practices will be cancelled.

Participants with asthma or other respiratory conditions should exercise caution and follow the guidance of their parents or guardians.

The AKBA encourages families and coaches to consult the Environment Canada AQHI website or mobile app for current air quality conditions when wildfire smoke or other pollution events occur.

**Last updated April 2026**