



# Inclement Weather



## BHS Coaches Handbook

**NOTE—this is approved by the BHS Board of Education and will supersede and MHSAA rules or more lenient rules that other schools may have. MHSAA tournament events may be an exception, consult AD for any weather related concerns during an MHSAA tournament event.**

The following will serve as guidelines as they may pertain to athletic contests and practices in the event of adverse weather conditions:

Inclement Weather – When school has been canceled due to inclement weather; the athletic director, in consultation with the principal and superintendent, will render a decision by 12:00 pm as to the status of practices, and 1:00 pm as to the status of contests for that day. The decision will be announced on local radio stations. Coaches are not to schedule or hold practices if the decision has been made to keep the building closed.

Tornado Watch – A “Watch” means the National Weather Service has deemed conditions are favorable for severe weather. Any outdoor practices or contests not in progress, but falling within the time frame of the “Watch” will be canceled or postponed. Outdoor practices or contests already in progress are to be suspended immediately and the athletes sent home.

**CLARIFICATION: We will cancel home and/or away events falling in the time frame of the tornado watch. This will also include practices. Kids are to leave immediately, no parental contact needed. If we are already at a site and a tornado watch comes into effect, we will stay and continue. If it occurs at Bridgman, the event will be postponed immediately and kids are to depart.**

Tornado/Thunderstorm Warning – A “Warning” occurs when there has been a sighting within the area. Indoor and outdoor practices or contests are to be suspended immediately and participants directed to an approved area of shelter where they are to remain under the supervision of the coach until an “All Clear” notification is given by the National Weather Service. The AD will sound an airhorn three times at the HS complex to notify all outdoor activities of the impending weather. Any opposing teams on site, officials or spectators should also be encouraged to seek cover. In the absence of a school administrator, the coaches should inform the aforementioned parties of where they should go. Athletes at the High School Complex will report to the gymnasium locker rooms; athletes at the soccer field will report into the elementary school. Exceptions can be made to those leaving the area with verbal parental permission (document all calls). Upon notification of an “All Clear” and conditions permit, practices or contests may proceed at the discretion of the coach; in consultation with the athletic director, contest officials, principal, or superintendent.

**CLARIFICATION: If there is a tornado warning (home or away) we will seek shelter immediately. Do not leave an away venue until an “all-clear” is given from the weather service OR you have made contact with AD, Principal or Superintendent. When at an away venue, follow any directions given by the opposing school’s administration. Verbal contact directly with a parent is the only way any athlete can leave the venue during a tornado warning (document the conversation).**

