

RAINOUTS, FIELD CONDITIONS AND GAME CANCELLATIONS

Rainouts are an inevitable part of baseball. They can affect both practices and games. Two principles guide rainouts: player safety, and protecting the city's athletic fields. Rainouts can be called due to current weather conditions and/or field saturation from rain in recent days.

Games and practices can be rained out in four ways and in order of authority:

1. Fields closed by SF Rec & Park Department (SFRPD) - this occurs when fields are closed due to rain or saturation from rain.
2. Canceled by SFYBL Board Member/Commissioner - this occurs at the discretion of the league due to various reasons not excluding field conditions or players availabilities.
3. Game Time Cancellation/Decision - this **ONLY** occurs on game day, at game time with the agreement of both teams by their head coaches and/or umpire. This only occurs based on field conditions on a field that was NOT previously officially closed by SFRPD that has for example standing water in the backstop area, or field poses some other hazard that can't be avoided. This cancellation must be communicated immediately to the league and documented with reason for cancellation, send an email board@sfybl with subject GAME TIME CANCELLATION and supplying a photo to document hazard is helpful.
4. Games in Progress - the umpire can call a game in progress. Refer to the rule book regarding your division's specific rules regarding how many innings played will constitute a complete game.

Please **do not practice, scrimmage, or compete on a closed field**. This greatly upsets SF Rec & Park and could result in your team losing its practice field permit. Remember, playing on saturated fields can damage fields for the remainder of the season.

In the event of current or recent rain, refer to the [SF Rec & Park field status page](#) to see if your field is closed.

Once a field is closed by Rec & Park, it will not reopen that day. If your field is closed, do not report to the field at game time. The league will attempt to notify you of field closures, but you should refer to the website if you think your field might be closed. If your field is open, please report to the field as scheduled, even though the game may still be canceled if upon arrival conditions aren't suitable, or if a sign is posted that the field is closed. Remember, if your game is deemed playable and you don't show up, your game will be recorded as a forfeit and your team will be charged the forfeit fee of \$100. Refer to the forfeit policy for more details.

Turf Fields

Turf fields are not considered closed when grass fields are closed. If the RPD website says "All Grass and Dirt" fields are closed, that does **not** include turf fields. Read carefully for details on which fields are closed. Practices and games scheduled on turf fields may still be canceled by SFYBL and/or coaches/umpires. The following fields are turf:

- Kimbell
- Minnie & Lovie Ward
- Silver Terrace
- South Sunset

Make-up Games and Practices

Due to the number of teams in the SFYBL as well as other leagues using SF Rec & Park fields, rained out practices cannot be made up. One makeup game may be scheduled for Shetland and Pinto divisions on Saturday, May 13. Mustang, Bronco, and Pony divisions will not have any makeup games, due to the start of playoffs.

Forfeits vs. Rainouts

Rainouts supercede forfeits. Please refer to the forfeit policy for clarification on this rule.

FORFEITS

A forfeit occurs when a team has seven (7) or fewer eligible players available to take the field on game day at game time. Coaches are responsible for preventing forfeits. It is no fun when there is a forfeit - players want to play! Please do your best to ensure your team can play all games. All teams have the opportunity to request bye weeks prior to the season. Once that window has passed, teams are committed to playing all games scheduled.

Forfeit Rules

Game time is forfeit time. At least eight (8) players are required at game time. This includes the away team, which is hitting first. Players should arrive 30-60 minutes before game time for a proper warm-up. Please do not ask the umpire for a time extension.

Planned Forfeits

If you know in advance that you will not have enough players, please let your commissioner know ASAP. This is a courtesy that will allow the league to notify your opponent, and could allow for a schedule change and cancellation of a scheduled umpire. If you will have a decent number of players (7 or so), the teams may choose to scrimmage and/or practice during the scheduled game time. Inquire with your division commissioner, as the league may relocate another game to your assigned field, and can provide you with an alternate location.

Forfeit Penalties

1. A forfeit results in your team recording a loss and your opponent recording a win
2. The coach is responsible for submitting a \$100 forfeit fee to SFYBL before the next game (coach may collect fees from team)
3. If payment for fee has not been received prior to the team's next game - team will NOT eligible to play their next game and team will be penalized with an additional forfeit

Forfeit vs. Rainout

Rainouts supercede forfeits. Rainouts eliminate the possibility of a game being played. Therefore, if your team has given advance of a planned forfeit, but the game is ultimately rained out, your planned forfeit will not be recorded, and no penalties will be incurred. Likewise, teams reporting to the field without at least nine (9) players will still not be charged with a forfeit if the game is rained out.