



# TESTWAY YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE

## Testway Youth League Weather Policy

- **Introduction**

- The safety and wellbeing of players, coaches, officials, and spectators should be of paramount importance to all stakeholders within the Testway Youth League. This policy outlines the procedures for managing adverse weather conditions and the potential postponement of games based on weather warnings from the Met Office and/or extreme cold weather.

- **2. Met Office Weather Warnings**

- The Met Office issues weather warnings to inform the public of potential severe weather that could impact daily activities. The warnings are categorised as follows:
- **Yellow Warning:** Be aware. Severe weather is possible over the next few days and could affect you. Plan ahead and consider travel arrangements.
- **Amber Warning:** Be prepared. There is an increased likelihood of severe weather, which could potentially disrupt your plans. Be prepared to change plans and protect yourself and your property.
- **Red Warning:** Take action. Extremely severe weather is expected. There is a significant risk to life and property. Follow advice from emergency services and take immediate action to keep safe.

- **3. Cold Weather Guidance**

- **Cold Weather Precautions**
- Football is a winter sport which brings with it the potential for low temperatures, the Testway Youth League offers the following guidance to ensure the safety and welfare of all participants.
- **Cold Weather Football Advice**
- Clothing Guidelines: Clubs, team coaches, managers and parents must ensure that the welfare of U18 players is considered in extreme weather conditions, whether it be heat or cold. Clubs may provide advice regarding appropriate clothing, such as hats, long-

sleeved shirts, base-layers, training jackets/coats, and tracksuits/hoodies.

- Kit Requirements: Players must wear the minimum correct kit as required by FA rules. Parents/carers are responsible for ensuring their child is appropriately dressed for the conditions, whether playing, training, or on the side-lines.
- Substitution Policy: Coaches and managers have the authority to substitute or remove players who are not adequately dressed for the conditions or who are visibly cold, wet, unhappy, or distressed, as this may impact their health and wellbeing.
- Parental Guidance: Clubs should advise parents/carers to ensure their child has adequate clothing and equipment for the weather conditions. Club officials and coaches have the right to refuse or remove any child from activity if they are not appropriately dressed for the session or weather conditions.

- **4. Policy on Game Postponement**

- The Testway Youth League may postpone games in a region covered by a Met Office Red Warning. This decision will be communicated to all relevant parties as soon as possible to ensure the safety of everyone involved.  
Clubs/Teams/Managers are expected to agree on game timings and appropriateness of completing fixtures with consideration to the welfare of players, considering the effects of adverse weather on the different age groups of players. In the event of games being postponed due to weather concerns the league must be informed at the earliest opportunity.
- Decide with enough time, prior to kick-off, to prevent unnecessary travelling for everyone involved.
- Listen to your players and parents/guardians' concerns about the weather conditions – it is a good chance to make sure you are updated with any player medical conditions, which the cold/hot weather can impact.

- **5. Reminder of FA Safeguarding Policies**

- Clubs, teams, coaches, and parents are reminded to adhere to the FA's safeguarding policies at all times, especially during adverse weather conditions. Key points include:
- Ensuring the welfare and protection of all children and young people.
- Providing a safe environment for all participants.
- Reporting any concerns about a child's welfare to the appropriate authorities.

- **6. Additional Weather Considerations**

- While this policy specifically addresses the protocol for Red Warnings, clubs and teams should also be vigilant during Yellow and Amber Warnings. It is recommended to:
- Regularly check weather updates and forecasts.
- Take necessary precautions to protect players and spectators.
- Communicate effectively with all stakeholders about any changes or potential risks.

- **7. Conclusion**

- The Testway Youth League is committed to ensuring the safety of all participants. This weather policy is designed to provide clear guidelines and procedures to manage adverse weather conditions effectively.
- The Testway Youth League is not responsible for any club's decision to participate or hold events in extreme weather, the responsibility for the welfare of players, coaches, officials, and spectators' rests with the respective clubs/teams/managers for each match.