USA LEAGUE

INCLEMENT WEATHER, FIELD CLOSURES & FORFEITED GAMES

Games are played according to the **published GotSport schedule** unless a team has been officially notified by USA that a game has been cancelled. Teams are required to appear for all scheduled games unless officially notified otherwise. Failure to appear may result in a **forfeit and applicable fine**.

Inclement Weather & Field Closures

1. Field/Complex Closure

If a complex is closed because of unplayable field conditions, the club must notify USA using the **Field Closure Form** on the USA website. USA will make the necessary notifications to the affected teams and referees.

Teams should not independently cancel a game or instruct an opponent or referee that a game has been cancelled.

2. Official Field Closure Notification

The online **Field Closure Form** is the official method for reporting a closure to USA. A confirmation email will be sent when the form has been received.

3. Weather Delay After Match Begins

If inclement weather causes the match to be suspended **after the first half has been completed**, the game will be considered **FINAL**.

4. Games Cancelled Due to Weather

Games cancelled because of inclement weather will be moved to the **placeholder date of 12/25/2027** and must be rescheduled through the appropriate **GotSport game-change process**.

12/25/2027 is a placeholder date only and is not the actual date the game is expected to be played.

5. Game-Day Field Conditions

Once teams and referees have arrived on game day, the **referee has the authority to determine whether field or weather conditions are safe and playable**. If a club failed to notify USA of a field closure in a timely manner and the referee crew reports to the field, the **home team is responsible for the referee fees**.

Options When Fields Are Unplayable

1. Move the Game to Another Nearby Field

If another playable field is available, the club may request to move the match while maintaining the scheduled game time. Contact USA with the proposed location so referee assignments and other game details can be coordinated.

2. Move the Game to the Away Team's Complex

If the home field is unplayable but the away team's complex is available, USA may facilitate moving the game when referee coverage can be coordinated. The original home club should contact USA for instructions. Moving the match may affect **home/away designation, referee assignments, reporting responsibilities, and referee payment**.

3. Games That Cannot Be Rescheduled

In some situations, a weather-cancelled game may not be able to be played. A team will not be penalized simply because the original match was cancelled due to unplayable field conditions and could not be rescheduled. An unplayed game will **not count in the standings**.

Forfeiting Games

When a team cannot participate in a scheduled USA League game, the impact extends beyond the two teams and may also affect referees, field schedules, and other league operations. Teams should make every reasonable effort to play the scheduled match. Options may include using eligible **club-pass players** or playing with the **minimum number of players required** under the applicable rules.

1. Games More Than 3 Weeks Away

Submit the appropriate **Forfeit Game Form** to notify USA. If the USA Board determines that a fine should be assessed, the team will be notified. Any assessed fine must be paid before the team participates in another USA League game.

2. Games Less Than 3 Weeks Away

For games scheduled less than three (3) weeks away, a **$350 forfeit fine** will be assessed to the forfeiting team. USA will invoice the team being charged with the forfeit through GotSport.

USA will notify the opposing team and the appropriate referee assignor of the forfeiture.

3. Outstanding Fines & Forfeited Games

USA may post teams with outstanding fines on the website. Teams whose fines have been paid will not be listed.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL A FORFEITED GAME BE REPLAYED.

This restriction does **not** apply to games cancelled because of **unplayable fields, inclement weather, or similar conditions**.