

## **JOHNSON CITY PARKS & RECREATION INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY**

**Purpose:** To provide consistent and uniform guidelines for staff, volunteers and participant to follow in the event of inclement weather for the public, health, safety , and well-being of staff, volunteers, participants, and facilities.

**Guidelines:** In the event of inclement weather, thunder or lightning, the Recreation Department recommends patrons at outdoor recreation areas find shelter and wait at least 30 minutes before resuming activities. The 30 minute time limit re-starts with each sound of thunder or flash of lightning. The Recreation Department reserves the right, as issued by the National Weather Service or Public Safety Department in the event of tornados or other severe storm watch or warnings to close facilities and cancel activities for public safety. If a tornado warning is issued, all outdoor activities will be cancelled, and indoor program participants will remain in a safe area until the warning has passed.

### **Cancellations/Postponements:**

#### **Athletics and Outdoor Events**

- When City Schools close due to inclement weather or other causes beyond their control, the Athletics Division will cancel events scheduled at all facilities.
- Outside temperature of 35 degrees or below
- Outside temperature of 95 degrees or above
- Rain, wind, lightning, snow, and/or severe weather conditions such as thunderstorm, blizzard, or tornado warnings.

All individuals participating in or observing an outdoor event are responsible for their safety and should monitor threatening weather conditions. During practices the coaches and staff are the designated “weather watcher.” During pre-game warm-up time, or during the game, the official shall be the designated “weather watcher.” The official will make the call to stop play and inform the coaches to remove the players from the field and to go to their vehicles, and announce to the parents/spectators that play is suspended due to lightning. Some places are safer than others and the department cannot dictate to parents/spectators, officials, coaches and players where the safety place is to be, but on open outdoor field is not the place to be. Parents need to take responsible action to assure their children or children of others are in a safe place, if they are responsible for the other child or children by request of the parent or because the parent is not on the site. No lightning safety guidelines can guarantee absolute safety. It is the responsibility of parents, guardians, and spectators to be aware of weather and take appropriate safe action to be out of harm’s way. The determination of play will be made by the Recreation Department.

#### **Community Centers, Art Center, & Pools**

When Johnson City schools are closed due to inclement weather, the community centers (Memorial Park Community Center and Carver Recreation Center) will open at 10:00 a.m. for access to the following areas: fitness room, gymnasium, game room, billiards room (MPCC), library (Carver) and pool (MPCC – for open/lap swim and open therapy only). Scheduled events and instructor-led programs will be cancelled. The centers will close at 5:00 p.m. Princeton Arts Center and Freedom Hall Pool will be closed.

When Johnson City Schools are on a delay due to inclement weather, community centers, art center and pools, will open at 10:00 am and all events and programs will begin at 10:00 am. Each location will close at normal closing hours, unless inclement weather occurs later in the day that forces closure.

When schools let out early due to inclement weather all programs and events scheduled for the remainder of the day will be cancelled.

If inclement weather occurs on a weekend when schools are not in session the Parks & Recreation Department Director will determine when parks and centers would open and make a decision by 6:00 am.

Transportation will not be provided when Johnson City Schools are closed or let out early due to inclement weather.

- Full-time staff report to work if able to safely travel to the Center; they may use vacation time if unable to report to work.
- Legion Street Pool (ONLY) If at any point it is raining hard enough that the staff cannot see the bottom of the deep end of the pool, the patrons are asked to exit the water. This applies to the Legion Street Pool only. Refunds or Rain Checks will not be given if the patrons are asked to exit the water for rain, thunder, or lightning.
- In the event of a thunder or lightning storm all patrons will be asked to exit the water and not use the shower facilities at the Freedom Hall, MPCC, or Legion Street Pools. Patrons will be kept out of the water for 30 minutes from the last time thunder is heard or lightning is seen.

**Announcements are made with radio and TV stations, or participants may call the centers for further information or to confirm.**

**Memorial Park Community Center Inclement Weather Policy (as of 2/11/14)**

When Johnson City Schools are closed, Memorial Park Community Center will open at 10:00 am and all events and programs will be canceled. The Center will be open for the fitness room, gymnasium, game room and billiards room only. The Center will close at 5:00 pm.

When Johnson City Schools are on a delay due to inclement weather, Memorial Park Community Center will open at 10:00 am and all events and programs will begin at 10:00 am. The Center will close at 9:00 pm, unless inclement weather occurs later in the day that forces the Center to close earlier.

Hours of Operation will be posted on the automated system at (423) 434-5750.

**Carver Recreation Center Inclement Weather Policy (as of 2/11/14)**

When Johnson City Schools are closed, Carver Recreation Center will open at 10:00 am and all events and programs will be canceled. The Center will be open for the fitness room, gymnasium, game room and library only. The Center will close at 5:00 pm.

When Johnson City Schools are on a delay due to inclement weather, Carver Recreation Center will open at 10:00 am and all events and programs will begin at 10:00 am. The Center will close at 9:00 pm, unless inclement weather occurs later in the day that forces the Center to close earlier.