**Deeping United Inclement Weather Policy**

**Introduction;**

The purpose of this policy is to set out the club approach to activities (matches and training) in periods of inclement or extreme weather.

The safety and wellbeing of players, coaches and spectators is the primary concern during all Deeping United Football Club activities. Even though activities are scheduled rain or shine, they will proceed only as long as it is safe to do so.

The safety to do so relates directly to concerns toward safeguarding or welfare be that in regard the pitch, venue or travelling conditions to venues.

**Home Venue cancellations**

Deeping United hire pitches from Deeping Leisure Centre on Spalding Road, who may have to close the pitch/ pitches in the event of inclement weather or other related issues. If the pitches are closed Deeping United fixture secretary will make every effort to reschedule all cancelled matches in liaison with the league officials and team coaches.

When weather could be an issue, the Club may cancel matches or practice at Spalding Road on the day prior to or the day of matches/practice. Deeping United will inform coaches via Text/Whatsapp and post on the clubs social media and website at the earliest opportunitywhen matches are cancelled due to weather or other circumstances. Coaches will then inform their respected teams at the earliest opportunity.

**Moving forward a committee member will visually inspect the pitches prior to the first game if there is any doubt that they are safe to play on**. Coaches should also conduct their own pitch inspections on the day of their home matches in a timely manner to determine playing surface conditions, and notify the clubs fixture secretary should the match be cancelled. Coaches will then contact the opposition and match official to inform them.

**Warnings**

From time to time the club will provide guidance and “warnings” regarding inclement weather and for coaches to give due consideration to players safety prior to conducting practice or matches. This could be as a result of (but not limited to) forecast or actual;

* Severe rainfall
* Icy or Snowy conditions
* Freezing conditions
* Extremely high temperatures
* Thunder and Lightning- Please review the separate specific guidance around these conditions

**Hot Conditions**

Even though high temperature and humidity warnings may be in place, Deeping United activities will continue. Matches or practices are not cancelled due to extreme heat however the following measures will be in place to keep everyone safe during their matches and practices:

* Regular rest and water breaks will be implemented by Coaches / Match Officials
* Coaches should remind their players and parents/carers that extra drinks should be provided as well as suncream/sunhat
* During training sessions, the pace will be kept slower and easier
* Reminder guidance on signs of heat exhaustion or heat/sun stroke will be circulated

**Decisions**

From time to time the club will take decisions out of the coaches hands to cancel matches or practices. These decisions may be age specific or time specific. At this point all coaches should accept and abide by the decisions, which are made in the best interests of the players, the coaches and club.

***Regardless of the decisions made by the Club, Match Official, or Coach, participants (and/or their legal guardians) should always use their own judgement when inclement / dangerous weather is present.***

Reviewed: 14/08/2024 Date of next review: June 2025