



<b>EMSA Policy</b>	<b>Number:</b> G-01-0420	<b>Adopted by EMSA BOD</b> 06-2023
--------------------	-----------------------------	---------------------------------------

<u>Policy Type</u>	Structure	Objectives	Registration	Game Regulations	Discipline
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Title: Air Quality Policy**

<b>1. Background</b>	One of EMSA's objectives is to ensure the health and safety of each individual participant and ensure that all individual participants have equal access to all EMSA Programs regardless of their religious affiliation, ethnic background, cultural heritage, or lifestyle orientation.
<b>2. Issue</b>	Due to recent changes in weather patterns forest fires are impacting our programs every year. Whether the fires take place in Alberta or BC, the quality of our air is significantly impacted.
<b>3. Policy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ALL</b> City Wide and Club games will be played as scheduled unless otherwise stated by EMSA Main. That is the default position of the League.</li> <li>• EMSA Main is following the Government of Canada Air Quality Health Index in order to assess air quality: <a href="https://weather.gc.ca/airquality/pages/provincial_summary/ab_e.html">https://weather.gc.ca/airquality/pages/provincial_summary/ab_e.html</a></li> <li>• <b>During weekdays</b>, the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) must be 6 or lower at 4pm (regardless of when it was calculated) for all games to proceed as scheduled. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If at 4pm, the AQHI is <b>7 or higher at your game's location: one of the 4 Edmonton substations, Red Deer, St. Albert, Sherwood Park, Spruce Grove or any other</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**location in Alberta**, the League will issue a notice of postponement for the affected location.

- **On the weekend** if 1 (one) hour prior to an Edmonton-and-area game, or 3 (three) hours prior to a Red Deer or out-of-district-participating team game, the AIR Quality Health Index is 6 or lower **at your game's location: one of the 4 Edmonton substations, Red Deer, St. Albert, Sherwood Park, Spruce Grove or any other location in Alberta**, the games will proceed as scheduled.
  - If 1 (one) hour prior to an Edmonton-and-area game, or 3 (three) hours prior to a Red Deer or out-of-district-participating team game, the AQHI is **7 or higher at your game's location: one of the 4 Edmonton substations, Red Deer, St. Albert, Sherwood Park, Spruce Grove or any other location in Alberta**, your game will be canceled.
  - The league will not issue cancellation notices on the weekends. Playing out of town teams, please ensure you look at the AQHI for that location.

### **Further Clarification:**

If the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) in the general Overall Edmonton Region is listed:

- Between 1 and 6 overall (at 4pm - regardless of when it was calculated): the games that evening will proceed as scheduled. If the Air Quality changes after that it will be up to the official to cancel at the field. All teams must show or forfeit the game.
- 7 and above (at 4pm) at your Game location (Red Deer, St. Albert, Edmonton, or Spruce Grove) regardless of when it was calculated: the games that evening will be canceled by the league and rescheduling procedures will take effect.
- The Edmonton substations will cover the following areas:

- Edmonton East – for the area south of the river and east of Calgary Trail.
- Edmonton McCauley – for the area north of the river and east of highway 2.
- Edmonton South - for the area south of the river and west of Calgary Trail.
- Woodcroft - for the area north of the river and west of highway 2.
- Here is the link for the substations:

[https://weather.gc.ca/airquality/pages/multiple\\_stations/abaq-001\\_e.html](https://weather.gc.ca/airquality/pages/multiple_stations/abaq-001_e.html)

- If the Government of Canada Air Quality Health Index is N/A at 4pm for the location of your game, the last available reading for that particular location will be the accepted reading.
- During the games if the air quality diminishes, the game official will provide additional water breaks and, if agreed upon by both team's head coaches prior to the game, will shorten the halves by 5 minutes if needed.
- If air quality changes dramatically during a game (e.g., sudden smoke event caused by wind direction change) referees and team officials are advised to use their discretion. Record all decisions and relevant information on the game sheet.
- Please note that games being played at the Edmonton Scottish Soccer Dome or the Red Deer Dome are not affected by the AQI as those games are being played indoors on artificial turf. Games will proceed at these locations regardless of the outside air quality, at the game's referee's discretion.
- As with any other game, if a parent or legal guardian believes a player cannot attend or continue the game under current conditions should feel free to remove the player from the game.
- **Until further notice, the EMSA uses [weather.gc.ca](https://weather.gc.ca) for its Canadian AQHI readings. *Please find the readings for the location of your game.***
- **Zones, Communities, Clubs or team officials are not allowed to cancel Club or City-Wide games, only EMSA main can do that or the referee at the game location – if an assessment must be made at game time.**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Zones will make their own decisions only in regards to games scheduled under their own in-house leagues (U5/U7/U9/U11 Community).</li><li>• Decisions regarding practices or training sessions will follow the current ASA guidelines.</li><li>• If no postponement is given by the League and a team is short players or do not show, a 5-0 forfeit will be assessed for that game.</li></ul>
<b>4. Period in Effect</b>	<p>This Policy is in effect until subsequently revoked by the EMSA Board of Directors.</p> <p>Implemented by the EMSA Board of Directors by resolution passed on June 14, 2023.</p>