

**City of Lawrence  
Parks, Recreation and Culture**

<b>SUBJECT</b> Aquatics weather policy Cancellations and Facility Closures	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Policy</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Procedure</b>	<b>APPLIES TO</b> Parks, Recreation and Culture Department
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b> March 17, 2026	<b>REVISED DATE</b>	<b>NEXT REVIEW DATE</b>
<b>APPROVED BY</b> Lindsay Hart, Interim Director	<b>TOTAL PAGES</b> 2	<b>POLICY NUMBER</b>

**1. Purpose and Scope**

- The purpose of this policy is to protect the health and safety of patrons and staff during inclement weather. This document outlines the official procedures for closing or modifying aquatic operations due to weather conditions.
- This policy applies to all City of Lawrence aquatic facilities and programs, including:
  - Lawrence Indoor Aquatic Center
  - Lawrence Outdoor Aquatic Center
  - All aquatics classes, lessons, and programs

**2. Policy-weather related closure criteria**

- **Lightning and Thunderstorms**  
*(Applies to Indoor and Outdoor Facilities)*
  - Pools and pool decks will be immediately evacuated if:
    - Lightning is detected within 0–3 miles, or thunder is heard.
  - A 30-minute waiting period will begin after the last observed lightning or thunder before activities may resume.
  - Patrons may shelter indoors if space and safety allow.
- **Cold Weather**  
*(Outdoor Facilities Only)*
  - Outdoor aquatic facilities may close if:
    - The air temperature is below 70°F at opening, or storms or unsafe weather conditions are present.
  - Decision timelines:
    - By 12:00 PM for a 1:00 PM opening
    - By 4:00 PM for a 5:00 PM opening
- **Extreme Heat**  
*(Outdoor Facilities Only)*
  - Outdoor operations may be modified or limited if a Heat Advisory is issued.
  - Modifications may include shortened hours, increased breaks, or reduced programming to protect patron and staff safety.

- **Tornadoes and High Winds**

*(Applies to Indoor and Outdoor Facilities)*

Facilities will close and evacuate immediately if any of the following are issued:

- Tornado Warning
- National Weather Service (NWS) Severe Storm Warning
- Staff will guide patrons to designated storm shelter areas

**3. Procedures for Weather Closures**

- Weather conditions will be monitored by the Aquatics Supervisor using:
  - National Weather Service (NWS) alerts
  - Local weather alerts and radar applications
- The Department Director or a designated authority will make final closure decisions
- On-duty supervisors may initiate immediate closures if there is an imminent safety threat

**4. Notification Protocol**

- When closures or modifications occur, notifications will be shared through:
  - City of Lawrence website and social media platforms
  - Email and text alerts to registered participants
  - Department rainout line
  - On-site signage and facility intercom announcements

**5. Program Make-Ups and Refunds**

- Cancelled programs will be rescheduled when possible.
- Refunds or account credits will be issued in accordance with Department refund policies, [City's Refund Policy for Recreation Programs](#)

**6. Policy Review**

- This policy will be reviewed annually by the Aquatics Division and updated as needed based on:
  - Weather trends
  - Incident reports
  - Operational feedback



Signed  
Lindsay Hart, Interim Director

3-17-26

Date