10. Severe Weather Procedures

10.1 When Excessive Heat or Wind Chill is forecast, every attempt will be made to provide notice of schedule changes by 8 pm the preceding day, but not later than 7:30 am the day of. The following options for scheduling are available:

10.1.1 Both games can be moved 30 minutes.

10.1.2 Both games can be moved 1 hour

10.1.3 The second game will be cancelled, but the first game may be played if it can fit within the normal timeframe.

10.1.4 Both games will be cancelled.

10.1.5 If sufficient fields are available, both early and late games will commence at the same time. Managers must be prepared to provided home plate umpires and scorekeepers while at bat, since umpires and scorekeepers may be playing.

10.2 Excessive Heat: Anytime the Heat Index is forecast to be 95 degrees or higher during the scheduled playing time, WSSL will not play during that excessive heat index time. Once a game begins, if conditions on the field warrant adjustments for player safety, the following procedures will/may be implemented by agreement of the Managers:

10.2.a. Start the game early.

10.2.b. Break for at least 10 minutes between the first and second game to allow players and umpires to hydrate and rest.

10.2.c. Permit liberal use of Courtesy Runners. Any player may request a Courtesy Runner if they feel necessary.

10.2.d. Teams will get on and off the field quickly between innings and no warm-up pitches or infield practice will be permitted except for a few warm-up throws for a new fielder or pitcher.

10.2.e. Managers will encourage players to hydrate, monitor their players for signs of over-exertion and advise the home umpire of any potentially unsafe conditions.

10.2.f. In the event the home umpire determines the playing conditions are no longer safe, or player(s) need to cease play reducing one or both teams to less than 10 fielders, the home umpire shall terminate play and report the situation to the WSSL for further determination as to completion of the game. This health and safety decision authority by the home plate umpire is absolute and the managers and their teams will respect it as such.

10.2.g. Should there be disagreements, the Managers should err on the side of safety. If the game does not constitute a complete game, Managers must notify all involved players and the appropriate Division President. There shall be no regular season suspension of games. (Suspension in this case shall mean terminating play with the intent to complete the game at a later date). Rescheduling will be the responsibility of the league.

10.3 Wind Chill: Anytime the Wind Chill is forecast to be 50 degrees or lower during the scheduled playing time, WSSL will not play during that excessive wind chill time. Once a game begins, if conditions on the field warrant adjustments for player safety, the following procedures will/may be implemented by agreement of the Managers:

10.3.a. All Excessive Heat procedures apply except:

10.3.a.1. Games will not start early.

10.3.a.2. Breaks between games will be minimized.

10.4 Lightning: Lightning is the most potentially dangerous weather condition WSSL players will face on the ball field. Once lightning procedures are implemented, home plate umpires will suspend play and managers must get team players to safety and warn all spectators to seek cover.

10.4.1 Decision Tree:

10.4.1.1: If lightning is observed and thunder heard, procedures in 10.4.2 will be implemented immediately.

10.4.1.2: If thunder is heard but lightning is not observed, or lightning is seen but thunder not heard, umpires may use phone apps from any available member or fan (e.g., My Lightning Tracker or Flash Weather AI) to determine if the

lightning is within 20 miles. If the lightning is within 20 miles or a phone app is not available, procedures in 10.4.2 will be implemented immediately.

10.4.2 Procedures:

10.4.2.1. Players and spectators must evacuate the fields, dugouts, and stands. Once players and fans are under cover, managers and players must wait 20 minutes before resuming play.

10.4.2.2 Dugouts and stands are NOT safe. Players and spectators must use their vehicles or substantially constructed restrooms for shelter.

10.4.2.3 Each observed lightning strike restarts the 20 minute clock.

10.4.2.4 Games will be cancelled if the waiting period extends past the normal game stop time.

10.5 Code Red Air Quality: Ozone and particle concentrations can result in Code Red Air Quality being declared. Code Red Air Quality especially affects players with asthma, lung disease, or heart conditions that can lead to serious medical consequences. If a Code Red Air Quality is forecast anytime during the morning of a scheduled game day, all games will be cancelled.