

Squirrel Hill Baseball Association (SHBA) Weather Policy

In general, Lederman Field drains and dries amazingly quickly. SHBA is able to play on that field sooner after a rain, than just about every other field in Pittsburgh. Whereas Mellon Field might take two days to dry out, Lederman is likely to dry to playable condition in six hours.

SHBA inspects the field and looks at weather patterns beginning late morning of game days. SHBA makes every effort to get every game in, and is hesitant to call games early, or at all. SHBA generally controls the decision at Lederman Field, but does not control the decision to play Little league at Mellon Field or Stanton Heights – we are informed of those fields condition by their field managers.

Often lighter rain over a number of days will make the field much worse than a big one-to-two hour storm that happens after a series of dry days. The afternoon weather is much more important than the morning weather. SHBA rarely will call games in the morning unless the field was already unplayable the night before

Making life difficult for everyone is that the rain never falls evenly throughout the region. So one person can look out their work window and see a deluge and another person across town just sees gray skies. The rain fall that matters is what happens at the field -- and the only way to know that is to go to the field.

When SHBA decides weather conditions are too poor to allow a game to be played, the director calls the head coaches first and then either web site administrator so that they can post a **Special ALERT** on the web page. The director also usually posts a recorded message at the Lederman Field phone number (412-421-7172).

In general, in the event of a game cancellation (be if for weather or any other reason) SHBA notifies the coaches first, and the web site administrators immediately after that.

The best advice to parents is to:

1. Assume the game is on.
2. Check the web page **Special ALERT** section (<http://www.sqhillbaseball.org>) shortly before heading to the field.
3. If your head coach has established good email connections between themselves and the players, check your email shortly before heading to the field.
4. Call the Lederman Field phone number to see if there is a message there indicating the game has been canceled.
5. It's usually not necessary to call your head coach to ask if a game is canceled - items 2, 3, 4 should be tried first and are usually sufficient to find a definitive answer.
6. On "iffy" days, don't just drop your player off at the field, but hang around long enough to know that the game will be played.
7. Make sure arrangements are made for the possibility of game being stopped mid-play due to weather changes.

While SHBA works hard to be timely in decision making and communication, sometimes last minute weather changes, the fact that many of the coaches and web site administrators are volunteers with real world jobs and responsibilities, time delays in email processing, or lack of complete phone records, leads to players showing up at the field for a last-minute, weather-canceled-game. Such situations are part of the nature of baseball, which unlike many other sports, does not play games in all weather conditions.

Once game play begins, the umpire, often in consultation with the head coaches and the league director if present, decides whether a game can continue or not, if the weather changes. The umpires have strictly enforced policies about game play if lightning is seen (even if it is not raining at the field, and even if the lightning is in the distance).

This document applies to Little League games for the Squirrel Hill Baseball Association (SHBA). SHBA does not make the ultimate decision for any Pony, Colt, or Super-Colt field used for city BIG League games, even though many SHBA teams play in that league on the Allderdice and Mellon Park "home" fields.