



# ALBUQUERQUE SOCCER LEAGUE

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## ASL Policy for Reschedule and Cancelled Games

The following policy is adopted by the Executive Committee regarding the reschedule of games as a result of team requests or inclement weather.

ASL uses fields provided by the City of Albuquerque (Arroyo del Oso and St. Pius in the fall and spring and all summer fields) pursuant to a user permit issued by the City and at the soccer complex operated by the Southwest Youth Soccer Corporation on Santa Ana tribal property land pursuant to a lease among the member organizations and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. So far, we do not pay a user fee for city fields. That may change in the future as the city looks for new sources of revenue. The member organizations that use the soccer complex at Santa Ana pay all of the expenses to sustain the facility. We receive no funding outside of the fees pay by the members who play games and tournaments there. The current annual expense budget for the Santa Ana facility is approximately \$500,000. Because we do not receive any money from outside sources, we must make the decisions as to whether we will play and risk damage during inclement weather. If the fields are damaged, the leagues using the facility are the only source of revenue for the additional repairs beyond routine repair work included in the budget. In the case of damage to the city fields from using them during inclement weather, the city has notified the leagues that it will seek to have repairs costs recovered from the Leagues whose games caused the damage.

### Weather-related cancellations

As a result, there are occasions where snow or rain will result in the league officers making the decision to cancel games at either the Santa Ana complex or on city fields or in all three locations we use for fall and spring season games. We make those decisions based on these factors and actually visiting the fields at around 6 a.m. on game day. Any players who wish to come with us for those visits are free to do so. Leave us your cell phone number and we'll be happy to meet you there.

These are the factors that go into a decision to play or not play:

- Safety of the players and game officials
- Risk of significant damage to the grass
- How long has the weather been wet and/or cold
- Forecasts from weather.com regarding anticipated wet or cold weather continuing through the day

- Whether there is water standing on the field
- Whether there is snow on the field
- Whether the grass is frozen

When the decision is made, we will communicate to team reps via e-mail, record a notice on the league rainout number (505-341-5015), post notice on the League web page and advise those who have signed up for the league Twitter account.

Because of the increased usage of city and Santa Ana fields, if an entire weekend of games is rained out, that day's schedule will not be replayed. There are not weekends with adequate fields available to do so. Combined, ASL and AWSL play 85 games each week, requiring roughly 22 fields for a normal Sunday of play. The entire month of February and the entire month of May are filled with youth soccer tournaments that absorb all of the fields and all of the referees. After ASL and AWSL have finished play the first Sunday of November, the final three weekends of November are also absorbed by youth soccer tournaments and the NMSSA Fall Classic. As a result, there are simply not adequate facilities to reschedule a full days worth of games. All city and Santa Ana complex fields are off line in December and January. When you add up the fact that we play games in March and April and September and October, there aren't any months left.

Often, the weather conditions will be substantially different at the Santa Ana facility and games will be cancelled there while field conditions are adequate to play in the city. If we are forced to cancel games at the complex but are able to play on the city fields, we will proceed to play the city games, but they will not count in the standings. If games are cancelled at the complex, we will still require 17 fields for a full day to make up a full cancellation day. If a specific time period are cancelled (e.g., 3 pm games for lightening), we can arrange over the course of a month to probably get those games rescheduled, generally based on cooperation from the teams.

### **Team Requested Rescheduled Games**

In the team registration information we post for each season, we advise people organizing teams when the season will start, the days on which games are played, and when the season is over. We budget expenses based on playing games within that time period. To the extent people wish to move their games outside the regular league schedule, the league incurs additional expenses for rescheduling referees, paying rent on toilets at the city parks, painting lines on the fields, and delivering nets for games. To the extent teams agree to reschedule their games, we now assess a \$25 reschedule fee on the team requesting the reschedule to cover those additional expenses.

We will not reschedule the first game of the season unless your team has completed the registration for a minimum of 15 players. This avoids teams rescheduling a game simply because they did not get their registration done.

Should a team wish to reschedule, they must obtain agreement with the opposing team and that team must notify the league of their agreement, either by speaking with the office staff (not leaving a phone message) or by e-mail to the league e-mail address. It is entirely at the option of the opposing team unless the reason for the rescheduled game is for the requesting team's participation in the USASA National Cups or National Coed Cup. Since very few ASL teams participate in those events, we will direct the reschedule of the game per the ASL rules. If the opposing team does not agree to the reschedule, the requesting team can either proceed with the game as scheduled or notify the league of its intent to forfeit by 2 p.m. on the Thursday preceding the date of the requested reschedule. The League can then notify the referee scheduler and the opposing team to cancel the game and no fines will be levied. If a team does not show for a game without notifying the League so the game can be cancelled and the opposing team and referees notified, then the forfeiting team is fined the amount of the game fee.

The League will play all rescheduled games on the Sunday following the end of the least scheduled game. If your team cannot play on that Sunday, your team should not request to have the game rescheduled. Games will be played on fields in the city, not at the Santa Ana complex.

Yes, the Santa Ana complex now has lighted fields. We do not pay for the use of the lighted fields in our field rent for the fall and spring league that plays on Sundays. As a result, your team and your opponent can request your rescheduled game be played at night at the Santa Ana complex. However, that will require an additional \$100 fee to cover the additional field rent and expense for using the lights.