



# FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## DIVISION OF PARKS & RECREATION

Jan H. Gardner  
County Executive

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### FACILITY CLOSURES AND PROGRAM CANCELLATION PROCEDURES

#### PROGRAM CANCELLATION LINE:

- In the event of inclement weather, Recreation staff may cancel a program and/or close a facility when the safety of the participants or staff is in question.
- When the determination is made to cancel specific programs or rentals, Parks & Recreation will inform the public of all cancellations by updating the Program Cancellation Line.
  - **The Program Cancellation Line is 301-600-6291 (select option 2).**
  - This line will be updated no later than an hour prior to the program/rental start time. If no cancellations are listed within an hour of the start time, the program/rental is running as scheduled.
- If the County Government closes, all facilities will close and programs and rentals will be cancelled.

#### RECREATION FACILITIES vs. FCPS POLICIES:

- **Parks and Recreation cancellation decisions are separate from Public Schools cancellations (even though the Rec Centers share facilities with the school)**
- Participants should check with their instructor about make-up dates for cancelled sessions.
- Rental dates cancelled by the Division of Parks and Recreation are automatically issued a full credit if a make-up date cannot be arranged.

#### SNOW EMERGENCY PLAN:

- If the snow emergency plan is declared in Frederick County, all facilities will close and programs and rentals will be cancelled.
- If the Snow Emergency Plan goes into effect during a program or rental, that program/rental should be allowed to finish or run to a certain time (this will be decided on a case by case basis).
- Once the snow emergency plan has been lifted, facilities may open for programs and rentals once the parking lots and walk ways are clear and safe.

#### RAIN, WIND, THUNDER/LIGHTNING:

- Upon the first sound of thunder or sight of lightning, activities should be suspended immediately.
- All activities will be suspended until 30 minutes after the last sound of thunder or sight of lightning. This 30-minute clock restarts for each thunder or lightning flash detected.
- Parks may decide to close certain fields once they take heavy amounts of rain, which will result in cancellations of a day or multiple days after the rain occurred.

#### SWIMMING:

- Frederick County law states that the pool deck must be cleared during thunder and lightning storms.
- At the first sight of lightning or sound of thunder, the pool will be immediately evacuated. Swimmers will not be allowed to return to the pool until 30 minutes after the last occurrence of thunder or lightning. Every attempt will be made to continue through the scheduled practice when the weather clears.

#### PARENTAL DISCRETION:

Parents and guardians are encouraged to use their own discretion whether to allow their child to participate under questionable weather-related conditions. When in doubt, sit it out.

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