Adverse Weather Match Day Protocol – Domestic Game – January 2026

Purpose

The safety of players, match officials, volunteers and supporters is the top priority on match days.

When adverse weather warnings are issued by the Met Office, Met Éireann, or another credible source, the following protocol will apply.

This guidance applies only to competitions under the jurisdiction of the IRFU (Ulster Branch). For competitions governed directly by the IRFU (e.g. the All-Ireland League), clubs must follow IRFU instructions. For school fixtures, directions issued by the Education Authority take precedence over this policy.

General Principles

• Prior to kick-off the home club is responsible for deciding whether the pitch is playable.

• Where Red and Amber/Yellow warnings exist at the same time in different locations, teams or referees will not be expected to travel through a Red Warning area.

• Clubs should keep a record of the weather warning and its source.

• Clubs must notify the Ulster Branch/Competition organiser, the opposition and the referee as early as possible.

1. Yellow Weather Warning (Home Venue)

- Fixtures should normally go ahead as scheduled, subject to the pitch being playable.
- Clubs should consider access to the venue, safety of all participants, and travel disruption.

2. Amber / Orange Weather Warning Zones

- Clubs must assess pitch/venue safety and the ability of teams and match officials to travel.
- Either club may request postponement if an Amber/Orange warning impacts safety.
- All parties must be notified as early as possible.
- Fixtures will be rescheduled in line with competition rules.

3. Red Weather Warning Zones

- Fixtures will almost always be postponed, unless both teams request otherwise
- Away teams will not be expected to travel through a Red Warning area.
- All parties must be notified as early as possible.
- Fixtures will be rescheduled in line with competition rules