

Brookings Marathon Weather Plan

Last Updated: April 15, 2009

In order to provide a safe experience for all participants and volunteers, we have created this document to communicate the process for dealing with severe weather.

If current or forecast weather conditions are severe, the Race Director reserves the right to cancel, postpone or alter the event at any time. We will do everything within our capabilities to communicate cancellation, postponement, or alteration of the event to all runners as quickly as possible. In all cases, runners are responsible for their own safety and should use their best judgment in deciding whether or not to continue if severe weather conditions exist. If the event is cancelled or completed as an untimed "fun run:"

- Runners will receive a commemorative medal
- Festivities in the park will be held if weather allows
- Awards will be converted into random prizes
- No entry-fee refunds will be made

Below are the guidelines that will be used to determine if weather conditions are severe and pose a risk to the safety of runners. This is followed by information on how we will communicate cancellation, postponement, or alteration to participants.

Severe Weather Conditions

- Thunderstorms /Lightning
- Excessive Heat & Humidity
- High Winds
- Cold Temperatures
- Heavy rain/freezing or frozen precipitation

Before the Event

If severe weather conditions exist prior to the event, please listen to AM 910 or FM 93.7 from Brookings or AM 1140 or FM 97.3 from Sioux Falls. In addition, we will post information on the Brookings Marathon site (www.brookingsmarathon.com). If possible to adequately predict a severe weather event, announcements regarding cancellation or postponement will be made by 5:00 AM on race day.

During the Event

Given that weather can change during a 6 hour event, weather related announcements may need to be issued after the start of the race. The following color codes will be used to communicate weather status during the event if adverse weather is imminent or forecast. Flags will be displayed by course vehicles and at the finish area. In addition, colors will be verbally communicated to runners at aid stations.

Green Flag Status – Safe to Proceed

Fair weather through light/moderate rain.

Examples:

- Forecast or observed thunderstorm or lightning outside of a 30 mile radius
- Light to moderate rain or drizzle
- Temps at or above 30 degrees F
- Sleet or snow not forecast to create snow covered or slippery conditions

Yellow Flag Status – Proceed with Caution

Severe cold or excessive heat. Moderate to strong winds. Heavy rain, freezing or frozen precipitation making significant portions of the course hazardous.

Examples:

- Forecast or observed thunderstorm/lightning/hail within 12 to 30 miles or forecast to move within 12 miles within 45 minutes
- Forecast or observed winds from 35-45 mph
- Fog or reduced visibility below ¼ mile
- Temperature below 30 degrees F or wind chills below 10 degrees F
- Sleet or snow making a significant portion of the course slippery
- Heat index at or above 90 degrees F

Participants may continue with event. Be aware of deteriorating weather conditions. Check the alert condition at the next aid station. Participants should consider that a red flag alert may be forthcoming at any time during yellow flag status.

The race director will issue the following statement:

The course is now under yellow flag status. Runners should proceed with caution and be alert for changing weather conditions.

Red Flag Status - Do Not Proceed, Seek Shelter Now

Severe weather warnings issued by the National Weather Service, freezing or frozen precipitation creating hazardous conditions, or flooding. In general, any life-threatening condition will initiate a red flag alert.

Examples:

- Forecast or observed thunderstorms/lightning/hail within 12 miles or forecast to move within 12 miles within 30 minutes
- Forecast or observed winds greater than 45 mph
- Heat index at or above 105 degrees F
- Temperatures below 10 F or wind chills below -10 degrees F

Participants, volunteers, and spectators should seek shelter immediately in the nearest shelter or support vehicle.

The race director will issue the following statement:

The course is now under red flag status. Runners are advised to seek shelter. Proceeding along the course is considered unsafe at this time. Runners who proceed do so at their own safety risk.

If the severe weather subsides and we are able to continue the event, it will be completed as an untimed “fun run.”