

Race Day Protocol for Severe Weather

GO! St. Louis President and Race Director and Medical Director will meet regarding potential inclement weather prior to the start of the marathon, half marathon and marathon relay.

If an impending weather situation is apparent, the GO! St. Louis Staff shall make a determination whether to delay or postpone the marathon, half marathon, and marathon relay based on information obtained by the National Weather Service. The specific criteria used to delay or postpone the race shall be:

1. Heat- If the wet bulb globe temperature at the start of the marathon is at the High Risk Level, between 73° and 82°F the race will be shortened to a Half Marathon for those who do not reach the Half Marathon split by 9:30am. If the wet bulb globe temperature at the start of the marathon is above 82°F the race will be canceled.
 2. Cold-The race will be canceled if the ambient temperature at the start of either race is < -15° F
 3. Ice-The race will be canceled if the roads are icy and traction is deemed unsafe.
 4. Prolonged lightning storms: To determine the proximity of lightning, we will use the National Severe Storm Laboratory (NSSL) flash-to-bang method. Resumption of activity should only be considered by waiting 30 minutes or longer after the last flash of lightning or sound of thunder. The event will be canceled if delays continue past the time when GO! St. Louis in cooperation with the City of St. Louis can keep streets safely closed.
3. Based on information from the National Weather Service, if the GO! St. Louis Staff determines there is risk of potential danger to race participants, spectators or volunteers, the start of the race will be delayed until it is deemed safe to start the race. The half marathon may be delayed up to 1.5 hours for a start time of 8:30 a.m. If the race is delayed more than .5 hours, Marathoners and Marathon Relay Participants will only complete the Half Marathon course. The Marathon Relay will consist of two, two-person legs, using only the first exchange zone. The course will reopen to traffic at 1:15 p.m.

Communications to Participants

In Advance of the Race

GO! St. Louis will use its website and social media as a warning system to runners that higher (or colder) than normal temperatures are expected and what steps to take in preparing for Race Day.

A warning system will be in place at the expo, indicating the expected weather conditions for race morning. (See Event Alert System below)

At the Start Line

1. If the start of the race is delayed or canceled, announcements will be broadcast at the Start Line. The start area will be evacuated and all participants, spectators and volunteers will be advised to seek shelter inside Union Station. The Union Station Severe Weather Policy will be adhered to.
2. Periodic updates will be provided to participants on the weather condition. For safety reasons, all announcements will be made from inside Union Station until it is deemed safe for outside announcements.

Along the Course

1. The Race Director will keep Section Captains apprised of the status of the event. Section Captains shall inform Law Enforcement Officers and Aid Stations in their respective areas. In the case of cancellation or shortening of the race while in progress, these individuals will be responsible for notifying participants as they pass on the route.
2. If the marathon distance is shortened for all marathon runners who have not made the split turn (approx mile 12) by 10:00am, those runners will be notified at that split location by GO! St. Louis race organizers. Any runner who continues onto the full marathon past that point will be notified that they are running at their own risk and will not be supported by the event staff.

General

1. If an evacuation of the Marathon is imminent, the proper authorities will be notified to help with the evacuation. An assessment will be made to determine if there were any weather-related injuries or deaths. The Race Operations team will determine clean-up efforts.
2. Any communications with the press regarding a weather related incident shall be made by the GO! St. Louis President, Public Relations Director. GO! St. Louis volunteers are not authorized to talk to the press, members of the public, runners or other volunteers about any emergency incident. GO! St. Louis personnel should not discuss incidents between or among themselves, their family members or other GO! St. Louis volunteers except on a “need to know

basis” to complete the Medical Director’s injury reports or other forms, or otherwise to answer questions of the GO! St. Louis President, Public Relations Director, or Race Director.

3. Any requests for interviews of statements from investigators or insurance personnel shall be referred to the GO! St. Louis President, Public Relations Director, or Race Director.

Event Alert System

A color-coded Event Alert System (EAS) will communicate the status of course conditions to participants leading up to and on race day. The levels range from Low (green) to Moderate (yellow) to High (red) to Extreme (black) based primarily on the weather, as well as other conditions.

1. E-mail, website and social media communication during race week will inform participants of the current Event Alert System status and provide preparation tips based on advance weather forecasts.
2. Updates will be made at the Expo at the Participant Packet Pick-Up area.
3. On race day, the current Event Alert System status will be communicated via public address announcements and color-coded signs/flags at the start and finish areas.
4. All participants should familiarize themselves with the Event Alert System prior to the race, remain alert for directions from race officials and announcers and take precautions to prepare properly for varying weather conditions on race day.

Event Alert System table:

Alert Level	Event Conditions	Recommended Actions
EXTREME/BLACK	EVENT CANCELED/EXTREME AND DANGEROUS CONDITIONS	PARTICIPATION STOPPED / FOLLOW EVENT OFFICIAL INSTRUCTION
HIGH/RED	POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS CONDITIONS	SLOW DOWN / OBSERVE COURSE CHANGES / FOLLOW EVENT OFFICIAL INSTRUCTION / CONSIDER STOPPING
MODERATE/YELLOW	LESS THAN IDEAL CONDITIONS	SLOW DOWN / BE PREPARED FOR WORSENING CONDITIONS
LOW/GREEN	GOOD CONDITIONS	ENJOY THE EVENT / BE ALERT