

GUIDELINES FOR EXTREME COLD TEMPERATURES

1. The local school principal, or designee, will make the final decision as to whether outdoor practice will be allowed. The health, safety, and welfare of the students should be the determining factors.
2. The wind chill factor should be used to determine the severity of the cold temperature, NOT just the temperature alone.
3. Warm-up and stretch properly up until immediately before the competition or practice.
4. Clothing should be selected for comfort. Do not overdress. Multiple layers provide good insulation.
5. Properly cover the head, neck, legs, and hands. Much of your body heat is lost through these areas.
6. Extreme cold blocks some sensations of pain. Thus, frostbite can easily affect the fingers, toes, ears, and facial areas. Check these areas regularly.
7. Hypothermia is a dangerous and severe level that can occur in cold temperatures. Add extra clothing and move to a warm environment immediately after exercising or practice. Drink warm fluids if possible. Hypothermia has occurred in air temperatures of 50°-65°F.
8. Early signs and symptoms of hypothermia include shivering, euphoria, confusion, and behavior similar to intoxication. Severe signs include lethargy, muscular weakness, disorientation, depression, hallucinations, and even combative behavior.

