

## USE of TENTS at FIELDS

We have had a great launch to our season with successful Early Bird tourneys and regular season play weekends in Halton Hills, Orillia and Brampton. Thank-you to the organizers at each of the three host locations for all your work to make those weekends run smoothly and successfully.

We have however had some serious safety issues arise with some major wind conditions experienced in both Orillia and this past weekend in Brampton and the impact on Pop-up Tents and Canopies.

We estimate that in the first three weekends –we have had at least a dozen incidents where wind gusts have picked up OWFL, hosting sites, teams and family tents that have been set up to either provide shade or shelter from possible inclement weather. When tents become “airborne” they become very hazardous to players, coaches and spectators.

At both the Orillia and Brampton weekend’s injuries have occurred when tents have been destabilized in the wind and struck spectators, players or bench staff.

As a result, the following are the precautions and measures that clubs and spectators are expected to follow to help reduce the risks and keep our fields safe;

### Tent Protocol at OWFL Events

- Regardless of wind conditions at the fields all tents need to be staked or pegged. If you don’t have anything to do this with (i.e. you forgot or lost the pegs) – the tent should not be set up.
- All tents set up at the OWFL fields must have someone responsible for monitoring the tent and wind conditions that could make the tent unstable. Regardless of the tent size or staking measures taken - there may be weather conditions during the day the tents are not safe and should be collapsed or taken down.
- Tents should never be left at any point during the day unoccupied. If there has been a tent set up and spectators or teams move to leave the area – the tent should be taken down or someone left in charge to monitor.

### Player Bench Area and player side of the field

- Only one tent should be set for a team around the bench area.
- The team tent must be properly staked/pegged or weighted.
- A bench person must be given the responsibility of monitoring the stability of the tent with regard to the ongoing and developing wind conditions.
- After the game is complete – the tent must be taken down or removed from that side of the field.
- It is OWFL Protocol that spectators (and their tents) should not be on the player side of the fields. Officials will be instructed to enforce this rule. There should no tents left attended anywhere but extra caution and diligence should be taken to ensure that tents in close proximity to the player benches are removed.