



Lightning Safety Policy

The safety of our athletes, coaches, and families is our top priority. This policy establishes clear procedures for monitoring, suspending, and resuming athletic activities during lightning or thunder events.

Monitoring

- Please designate a Weather Safety person (coach, commissioner, or staff member) responsible for watching weather conditions at all practices and games.

- Acceptable monitoring methods include:
 - Weather apps and radar
 - National Weather Service alerts
 - Visual observation of lightning or thunder

Suspension of Activities

- Mandatory Suspension: All outdoor activities must immediately stop if:
 - Lightning is seen, OR
 - Lightning is detected within 10 miles by an approved monitoring method.
- Announce clearly: “Lightning Protocol in Effect — Clear the Field.”
- Activities may continue in rain if no lightning or thunder is present.

Seeking Shelter

- Approved Shelters:
 - Fully enclosed buildings with wiring and plumbing
 - Metal-topped vehicles with windows rolled up
- Unacceptable Shelters:
 - Dugouts, tents, pavilions, metal bleachers, open fields, or near tall trees/fences
- All athletes and spectators should move quickly and calmly to shelter.

Resumption of Activities

- Activities may not resume until 30 minutes have passed since the last observed lightning flash or sound of thunder.
- Each new lightning or thunder event resets the 30-minute clock.

Communication

- Coaches must ensure parents and players are aware of:
 - Shelter locations- Notification procedures for delays and cancellations
- Commissioners are responsible for communicating weather-related cancellations via email, text, or social media.

Enforcement

- Failure to follow this policy will be treated as a safety violation and may result in suspension of coaching or practice privileges.
- The safety of youth athletes takes precedence over all competition or training schedules.