

Harleysville Baseball Lightning Policy

Harleysville Baseball has developed the following safety policy in the event of inclement weather to minimize the risk of injury from a lightning strike to players, coaches, support staff and fans. This policy applies to all fields and levels of play.

GENERAL

In the event of lightning or thunder all games and practices should be suspended and all persons should move to a safe location. The decision to suspend activity will be based upon first observance of a flash of lightning or hearing the clap of thunder.

Resumption of activity should not occur until thirty (30) minutes after the last flash of lightning is seen or clap of thunder is heard. If a lightning flash is seen or clap of thunder is heard during the thirty (30) minute delay, a new thirty minute wait should occur from the last flash of lightning or clap of thunder.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR MONITORING

All persons are responsible for monitoring the weather. If lightning or thunder is observed you should immediately notify the head coach(es) and/or umpires who should immediately suspend all baseball activity.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

When the presence of lightning or thunder is detected all persons are advised to immediately seek out a safe location. Safe locations include, but are not limited to:

- 1) A fully enclosed, substantial building, ideally with plumbing, electrical wiring, and/or telephone service which aid in the grounding of the building; or,
- 2) In the absence of a substantial building, a fully enclosed vehicle with a metal roof and the windows completely enclosed is a reasonable alternative.

RECOMMENDATIONS IF NO SAFE LOCATION IS AVAILABLE

- 1) Find a thick grove of small trees surrounded by taller trees or a dry ditch.
- 2) Stay away from the tall trees or objects (light poles or flag poles), metal objects (fences or bleachers), dugouts, the pavilion, individual trees, standing pools of water, and open fields.
- 3) Assume a crouched position on the ground with only the balls of your feet touching the ground, head lowered and cover your ears. A person who feels his or her hair stand on end or skin tingle should immediately assume the position described above.

REMEMBER!

- 1) Parents are always encouraged to remove their child from the fields at any time should any situation occur which they believe to be unsafe.
- 2) Thunder always accompanies lightning whether or not you can hear the clap or see the flash.
- 3) The average audible range of thunder is 3 to 5 miles. The average lightning bolt is 6 miles long.

