



LIGHTNING POLICY

- **All thunderstorms produce lightning and are dangerous.**
- **Lightning often strikes as far as 10 miles away from any rainfall.**
- **You are in danger from lightning if you can hear significant thunder.**
- **You are in danger if you can see lightning within a reasonable distance.**
- **Lightning injuries can lead to permanent disabilities or death.**
- **Look for dark cloud bases and increasing wind.**
- **Lightning can travel sideways for up to 10 miles and strike when skies are blue.**

Soccer fields are dangerous places to be during a lightning storm. When lightning is seen or thunder is heard, or when dark threatening clouds are observed, quickly suspend the game and/or practice and move to a safe location.

Game suspension requirements

The safety of the player is paramount. In any of the circumstances outlined below, the event organizer or referee will immediately suspend the game.

- 1. If you see lightning within a reasonable distance**, suspend the game/practice, clear the field and have everyone immediately go to a safe shelter.
- 2. If you hear significant thunder within a reasonable distance**, suspend the game/practice, clear the field and have everyone immediately go to a safe shelter. Do not wait for lightning to strike.
- 3. If your hair stands on end**, immediately suspend your game/practice and go to a safe shelter. Do not wait until it rains.

If the game official does not immediately suspend the game when any one of the points above occur, the head coaches from each team can agree that one of the criteria points have occurred and they may withdraw their teams from the field. If this action is taken both coaches are to send a written report to the event or league manager outlining the circumstances, the facts concerning the weather conditions at that time, the fact that the two coaches were in agreement and the name of the officials at the game (if possible).

Everyone is to immediately move to a safe location. No one should stand in water or on wet field(s) as water is a good conductor of electricity. The safest locations are in cars (not convertibles) or buildings (not tents). Do not seek cover under trees as lightning strikes tall objects.

Resuming play

Do not retake the field or re-start the game until all of the lightning and thunder has left the area. This means that you have not seen any lightning or heard thunder for 30 minutes. If one is present, an event manager will announce an "all clear" for games to resume. If no event manager is present, the decision to play will be made by the game official.

Should play be suspended prior to the end of the first half of the game, reschedules shall be handled by a game-by-game basis. Head coaches from the teams involved must agree on a new date and time before submitting a reschedule request, as long as both agree to make the game up. The request will then be final once approved by league event or league manager.