



Space Coast United Soccer Club, Inc. Lightning Safety Policy

The safety of our members, staff, volunteers, family, and friends is our primary concern. Florida is the lightning capital of the United States, and Central Florida has the added distinction of being called "Lightning Alley." Because of the frequency of electrical storms, our state leads the nation in fatalities and injuries caused by lightning.

Space Coast United Soccer Club maintains a strict policy with respect to inclement weather concerns impacting our practices and games.

All individuals present at a Space Coast United location are required to evacuate the fields and obtain appropriate shelter upon the direction of a representative of the Club when a lightning hold has been deemed necessary.

Lightning holds may be determined and communicated by a Coaching Director, Coach, member of staff, or member of the Board of Directors.

Lightning is considered an immediate threat when it is within five (5) miles, approximated by a 30 second difference in the "flash-to-bang" recognition. Club staff use Smart phone apps as well as visual and auditory assessment to determine strikes within 5 miles.

***Note:** Staff at Viera Regional Park are required to evacuate the fields in the event the lightning detector at Viera High School sounds. However, they should not wait for the detector to verify a decision they made based on the criteria described above.*

All individuals must maintain shelter in a car or sturdy structure with four walls and a roof while instructed to observe a lightning hold. Inside concession stand buildings constitutes acceptable shelter, while pavilions do not.

We utilize the "thirty minute rule" before resuming activities as electrical charges can linger in clouds after a thunderstorm has passed. Club representatives may indicate it is safe to resume play when thirty minutes after the last strike have elapsed.

The Club respects our members' time and attempts to make weather-related decisions in a timely manner, communicating field closures via website home page, social media, and email. Additional notification may come from coaches and team managers via email, text, or phone call. We appreciate your understanding and flexibility when rapidly changing weather conditions prevent adequate notice.