



COMMITTED TO PROVIDING THE BEST YOUTH BASEBALL & SOFTBALL EXPERIENCE IN THE LAKE NORMAN AREA

Lightning Policy and Procedures

This policy is necessary to protect players, families and fans of Lake Norman Little League ("The League"). This procedure is mandatory upon the presence of lightning and thunder in the immediate area of games or practices. To these points, The League will comply with "Appendix A - Lightning Safety Guidelines" as outlined in Little League's *Official Regulations, Playing Rules, and Operating Policies*.

LIGHTNING MONITOR

The Division Commissioner designates or maintains the role of Lightning Monitor at their division's game location. The Lightning Monitor should not include coaches or umpires participating in a game as they are unable to devote the attention needed to adequately monitor conditions. The Lightning Monitor must know the policy and procedures and be empowered to ensure the guidelines are followed. The Lightning Monitor is encouraged to download a weather application to their smartphone that includes lightning safety among its features. During practices, the Head Coach designates or maintains the role of Lightning Monitor for his practice field.

LIGHTNING PROCEDURE

The sooner activities are stopped, and people get to a safe place, the greater the level of safety. The Lightning Monitor should make use of a smartphone weather application to identify thunderstorms and/or lightning activity that is within 6-10 miles of the venue. Below are other criteria that should be used to halt activities:

1. If lightning is observed
2. If thunder is heard
3. If time between lightning and corresponding thunder is less than 30 seconds (indicates storm is 6 miles or less away)

When the Lightning Monitor identifies a need to act, he/she should communicate with the umpires, coaches, players and fans to temporarily suspend play and inform all to seek a safe place.

SAFE PLACE

Safe Places include the following:

1. A hard-topped vehicle
2. A substantial building

Safe areas **DO NOT INCLUDE**:

1. Anywhere on the field
2. Dugout
3. Bleachers

WHEN PLAY RESUMES

In the event of lightning, games and practices will halt for at least 30 minutes before resuming play. The Lightning Monitor is responsible to keep track of the 30-minute time limit and shall inform umpires once it is safe to resume play. If lightning occurs during the 30-minute wait period and it is determined to be within 6-10 miles away, the 30-minute wait period restarts until the Lightning Monitor determines it is safe to resume play or postpone the event. All games have specific time limits. In the event a lightning delayed game cannot be resumed within the time limit, the game may need to be postponed at the discretion of the Lightning Monitor.

When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!

STOP all activities.

**Seek shelter in a substantial building
or hard-topped vehicle.**

**Wait 30 minutes after the storm to
resume activities.**



www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov

