

HCYP LIGHTNING & THUNDER POLICY

(amended March 23, 2017)

Thunder and/or lightning necessitates that all outdoor activities at Kiwanis-Wallas Park be suspended immediately. The occurrence of either thunder and/or lightning is not subject to interpretation or discussion. The updated recommendations for Lightning Safety published by the National Severe Storms Laboratory, NOAA states:

If an individual can see lightning and/or hear thunder, he/she is already at risk. Louder or more frequent thunder indicates that lightning activity is approaching, increasing the risk for lightning injury or death.

High winds, rainfall, and cloud cover often act as precursors to actual cloud-to-ground strikes notifying individuals to take action. Many lightning casualties occur in the beginning, as the storm approaches, because people ignore these precursors. Also, many lightning casualties occur after the perceived threat has passed. Generally, the lightning threat diminishes with time after the last sound of thunder, but may persist for more than 30 minutes. When thunderstorms are in the area but not overhead, the lightning threat can exist even when it is sunny, not raining, or when clear sky is visible.

If a manager, coach, player or parent sees lightning or hears thunder, it is HCYP policy that all outdoor activities will be suspended immediately. The Cadre shall sound the air horn located in the Gator, but coaches are not to wait for either the cadre or umpires on this matter. They are to remove team members from the field immediately if thunder is heard or lightning seen. All park patrons shall immediately repair to either their vehicles, the rest rooms, the meeting room or the umpire room. **NO ONE SHALL TAKE SHELTER IN A DUGOUT OR THE PAVILION.** The Cadre shall ensure that all park patrons have heard the air horn and are moving toward safety.

Neither the coaches nor their team shall be penalized in any manner for removing their team from the field. The cadre/coaches shall wait a minimum of thirty (30) minutes from the last sound of thunder or sight of lightning. The cadre shall then make every reasonable effort to resume and complete interrupted contests with full consideration of weather and site conditions as they effect safety and playing conditions.

Further, if lightning is seen or thunder is heard 30 or fewer minutes prior to the scheduled start of a contest, the cadre/coaches shall not permit the contest to begin on that date until the weather has cleared or the conditions become playable.

After sounding the air horn, the Cadre should ensure that the following has

occurred:

The concession stand will close immediately and remain closed without any waiting line until the all clear is given and play can resume; and

The pavilion will be immediately evacuated and remain off limits until the all clear is given and play can resume;

Every person (manager, coach, parent, player, and spectator) must immediately leave the park grounds and move into a closed motor vehicle. Managers may move into the equipment building. Each team is responsible to establish a vehicle assignment plan for players that do not have a family vehicle present in the park.

The person designated as baseball cadre for any date shall always sign in at the baseball shed with his/her anticipated location at Kiwanis-Wallas Park for that day. If they are also acting as coaches (Fall Ball) they must immediately leave their coaching positions if the presence of a cadre is required. If for any reason a designated cadre is unable to assume his/her duties when scheduled for any reason, said cadre shall immediately contact the HCYP **Head Cadre** so that a suitable replacement cadre can be found.

Further, a list of all the current officers of HCYP, Inc. and their telephone numbers shall always be posted prominently next to the cadre sign-in sheet. It is HCYP policy that any decision made by any HCYP officer regarding any matter dealing with Kiwanis-Wallas Park, especially those issues dealing with safety, shall always supersede any decision of any other person.