

Lightning and Thunder Guidelines During Practices and Games

These guidelines provide guidance to those responsible or sharing duties for making decisions concerning the suspension and restarting of practices and contests based on the presence of lightning or thunder.

- (a) A Board Member will be assigned to monitor and make practice and game cancellation decisions. At games, Officials are also able to make decisions independent of the Board. If an assigned Board Member is not available at the practice field, the head coach(es) will be designated and recorded as the administrator. Parents, athletes and coaches are all trained to immediately suspend practice and get themselves and their athletes to a safe area.
- (b) Designated safe areas at the practice field are the concession building - indoors only – and vehicles. Players are not allowed into coaches' vehicles. If the parent or guardian is not at the field, then the player must go indoors of the concession building or a designated vehicle of another trusted family friend. Designation must be made in advance and the player and coach must know the designee assignment.
- (c) Suspension and resumption criteria:
 - a. If lightning or thunder is detected, an air horn is blown once and practice is suspended for 30 minutes.
 - b. When thunder is heard or a cloud-to-ground lightning bolt is seen, practice/games are suspend play for thirty (30) minutes and shelter is required immediately.
 - c. Thirty-minute rule. Once play has been suspended, practice/games will resume after 30 minutes of no lightning or thunder.
 - d. Any subsequent thunder or lightning after the beginning of the 30-minute count will reset the clock and another 30-minute count should begin.
 - e. Board members will discuss whether to continue practice, based on time remaining. If after 30 minutes there have been no more occurrences, and practice isn't already cancelled, blow air horn 2 times to resume followed by sending a text to all parents/guardians. If cancelling, send text.
- (d) This policy shall be reviewed annually with all administrators, coaches, game personnel, players and parents/guardians.