



## Lightning/Severe Weather Policy

1. Remember that prevention and education are the key.
  - a. Obtain a weather report prior to practice or games .When outside, listen to weather radio if you suspect a storm is approaching.
  - b. Know that the existence of blue sky and the absence of rain are not protection from lightning.
  - c. If a storm is approaching, monitor the situation carefully.
  - d. No place outside is safe near a thunderstorm.
  - e. Open fields and elevated places are the most dangerous when it comes to lightning.
  - f. The activity with the fastest rising lightning casualty rate is outdoor sports and recreation.
2. Assess and Act on Immediate Risk.
  - a. At every practice, game, or outdoor event, a parent, or club/team official should act as the lightning monitor(s). The monitor(s) must be responsible for assessing current weather conditions and relaying threat situations to the coach and or officials as appropriate.
  - b. Weather Bug app will be used to assess the distance of the last lightning strike.
  - c. If a lightning strike is within 5 miles, the field must be evacuated, and the practice/game suspended until 30 minutes after the last lightning strike. If after 30 minutes lightning is still within 5 miles, the practice/game will be cancelled.
3. Take Shelter in a Safe Location
  - a. Remember that no place outside is safe near thunderstorms.
  - b. The best shelter is a large, fully enclosed, substantially constructed building.
  - c. A vehicle with a solid metal roof and metal sides is a reasonable second choice. Stay inside the vehicle with the windows up-do not lean on the vehicle.
4. Avoid the most Dangerous Locations
  - a. Higher elevations.
  - b. Wide open areas, including fields.
  - c. Tall, isolated objects, such as trees, poles, or light posts.
  - d. Unprotected open buildings such as pavilions, picnic shelters, or bus stops.
  - e. Metal fences and metal bleachers.

**NO LIGHTNING SAFETY POLICY GUIDELINES WILL PROVIDE 100% GUARANTEED SAFETY.  
HOWEVER, THESE STEPS WILL HELP AVOID MOST CASUALTIES OR INJURY.**