

SEVERE WEATHER POLICY

These guidelines are established to protect all individuals from severe weather.

1. Establish a chain of command that identifies who is to make the call to remove individuals from the field.
2. The _____(who) shall monitor local weather forecasts as well as the sky for imminent danger.
3. Designate a safe shelter at each venue to where athletes can go if severe weather occurs.
4. Use the flash – to – bang count to determine when to go to safety. By the time the flash – to – bang count approaches 30 seconds all individuals should already be in there shelter.
5. Once activities have been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes following the last sound of thunder or lightning flash prior to resuming an activity outdoors.
6. Avoid being the highest point in an open field, in contact with, or proximity to the highest point, as well as being on the open water. Do not take shelter under or near trees, flag poles or light poles.
7. Assume the lightning safe position (crouched on the ground, weight on the balls of the feet, feet together, head lowered and ears covered) for individuals who feel their hair stand on end, skin tingle, or hear “crackling” noises. Do not lay flat on the ground.
8. Observe the following basic first aid procedures in managing victims of lightning strikes:
 - a. Survey the scene for safety.
 - b. Activate the local EMS.
 - c. Lightning victims do not carry a charge and are safe to touch.
 - d. If necessary, move the victim with care to a safer location.
 - e. Evaluate airway, breathing, and circulation, and begin CPR if necessary.
 - f. Evaluate and treat for hypothermia, shock, fractures, and/or burns.
9. All individuals have the right to leave an athletic site in order to seek a safe structure if the person feels in danger of impending lightning activity, without fear of repercussions or penalty from anyone.

Safe shelter

1. A safe location is any substantial, frequently inhabited building. The building should have four solid walls (not a dugout), electrical and telephone wiring, as well as plumbing, all of which aid in grounding a structure.
2. The secondary choice for a safer location from the lightning hazard is a fully enclosed vehicle with a metal roof and the windows completely closed. It is important to not touch any part of the metal framework of the vehicle while inside it during ongoing thunderstorms.
3. It is not safe to shower, bathe, or talk on landline phones while inside of a safe shelter during thunderstorms (cell phones are OK)