

# SPBA Severe Weather Safety Policy

(Lightning, Heat & Cold – Coaches & Officials)

SPBA's highest priority is the safety of players, coaches, officials, volunteers, and spectators. All practices and games must follow the weather safety standards below. **Safety decisions always outweigh competition or scheduling concerns.**

---

## Lightning & Severe Weather Policy (MANDATORY)

SPBA follows a zero-tolerance lightning policy.

### Lightning Detection

- If **lightning is seen** or **thunder is heard**, **all outdoor activities must stop immediately**
- This applies regardless of distance or intensity

### Suspension of Play

- Players, coaches, officials, and spectators must seek **proper shelter immediately**
- Dugouts, bleachers, trees, tents, and open pavilions are **NOT** safe shelter

### Safe Shelter Includes:

- Fully enclosed buildings with wiring and plumbing
- Enclosed vehicles with hard roofs and windows closed

### 30-Minute Rule

- Activities may **resume only after 30 consecutive minutes** with:
  - No lightning observed **and**
  - No thunder heard
- If lightning or thunder occurs during the wait period, the **30-minute clock resets**

### Authority

- Umpires, league officials, park staff, or SPBA leadership may suspend or cancel play at any time
  - Coaches **may not override** a suspension for lightning
-

# SPBA Severe Weather Safety Policy

## Extreme Heat Policy

SPBA uses the **Heat Index** (temperature + humidity) to determine safety actions.

### Heat Index 90–94°F

- Increase water breaks (every 10–15 minutes)
- Encourage shade and rest
- Reduce intensity

### Heat Index 95–99°F

- Mandatory water breaks every 10-15 minutes
- Shortened practices/games recommended
- No conditioning or high-intensity drills

### Heat Index 100°F or higher

- **All outdoor practices and games may be cancelled or suspended**
- **Managers and coaches' judgement is critical here.**

**⚠ Signs of Heat Illness:** dizziness, nausea, headache, cramps, confusion, excessive fatigue  
Any affected player must be removed immediately.

---

## Extreme Cold Policy

Cold conditions increase the risk of hypothermia, frostbite, and respiratory distress.

### Temperature / Wind Chill 40–32°F

- Activities may proceed with modifications
- Frequent warm-up breaks encouraged
- Proper layering required

### Temperature / Wind Chill 31–25°F

- Shortened practices only
- Frequent warm-up breaks
- Limit total exposure time

# SPBA Severe Weather Safety Policy

## Temperature / Wind Chill 24°F or below

- All outdoor practices and games must be cancelled
- Manager / Coach judgment is critical here.

**⚠ Cold-Related Warning Signs:** shivering, numbness, clumsiness, slurred speech, unusual fatigue

---

## Coach Responsibilities

- Monitor weather conditions before and during activities
- Enforce all stoppages and safety modifications immediately
- Ensure frequent water or warm-up breaks as appropriate
- Communicate delays, cancellations, or early dismissals promptly
- **Error on the side of safety at all times**

---

## Parent & Player Expectations

- Players must arrive properly dressed for conditions
- Hydration is required in all weather
- Parents should inform coaches of medical conditions affected by heat or cold
- Parents should promptly pick up players when activities are suspended

---

## **⚠ Final Authority & Enforcement**

**SPBA reserves the right to suspend or cancel any activity due to unsafe weather. Failure to comply with this policy may result in disciplinary action.**