

Policy 5.9.4 Lightning and Thunder

Severe Weather:

No place outside is safe when thunderstorms are in the area. All activity should be suspended, even if lightning or thunder has not yet been observed, and everyone should get indoors. Communicate this information completely and quickly to all participants.

Lightning:

The lightning policy was established to ensure the safety of all SnYVSA Players and Coaches in times of inclement weather. **(As recommended by the National Weather Service and NOAA)**

Lightning: What You Need to Know

- **NO PLACE** outside is safe when thunderstorms are in the area!!
- If you hear thunder, lightning is close enough to strike you.
- When you hear thunder, **immediately** move to safe shelter: a substantial building with electricity or plumbing or an enclosed, metal-topped vehicle with windows up.
- Stay in safe shelter **at least 30 minutes** after you hear the last sound of thunder. A lack of rain does not negate this requirement. It does not need to be raining in order to have thunder and/or lightning.

Last Resort Outdoor Risk Reduction Tips:

If you are caught outside **with no safe shelter anywhere nearby** the following actions *may* reduce your risk:

- Immediately get off elevated areas such as hills, mountain ridges or peaks.
- Never lie flat on the ground.
- Never shelter under an isolated tree.
- Never use a cliff or rocky overhang for shelter.
- Immediately get out and away from ponds, lakes and other bodies of water.
- Stay away from objects that conduct electricity (barbed wire fences, power lines, windmills, etc.)

Stopping Activities:

In general, a significant lightning threat extends outward from the base of a thunderstorm cloud about 6 to 10 miles. Therefore, people should be in a safe place when a thunderstorm is 6 to 10 miles away. You should account for the time it will take for everyone to get to safety. Here are some criteria that could be used to stop activities:

- **If you see lightning.** The ability to see lightning varies depending on the time of day, weather conditions, and obstructions such as trees, mountains, etc. In clear air, and especially at night, lightning can be seen from storms more than 10 miles away provided that obstructions don't limit the view of the thunderstorm.
- **If you hear thunder.** Thunder can usually be heard for a distance of about 10 miles provided that there is no background noise. Traffic, wind, and precipitation may limit the ability to hear thunder to less than 10 miles. If you hear thunder, though, it's a safe bet that the storm is within ten miles.

- **If skies look threatening.** Thunderstorms can develop directly overhead and some storms may develop.

If it RAINS play is "OK"

For SNOW, play if lines show

*But **LIGHTNING** is **FRIGHTENING**, **off the fields you must GO!!***