

WHLL Lightning Policy/Safety Plan

If lightning is seen OR thunder is heard, all teams must evacuate to a safe location. All activities will be immediately suspended for a minimum of 30 minutes. Play may resume if lightning has not been seen and thunder has not been heard for 30 minutes.

The 30 minute waiting period starts over each time lightning is detected or thunder is heard, as generally these indicate the storm is less than 10 miles away. The umpires will determine when the game is to resume. Umpires and, in the absence of an umpire, coaches are responsible for determining if a game or practice should be called because of severe weather. If you can see it (lightning) and hear thunder within ten seconds, flee and take shelter immediately. Once a game or practice is suspended because of lightning, you must wait until 30 minutes after the last observed lightning or thunder before resuming activities.

In the event of lightning detection, stop what you are doing and get to a safe place immediately. Small outdoor buildings like dugouts, rain shelters, sheds, etc. are NOT SAFE. Substantial buildings with wiring and plumbing provide the greatest amount of protection. Office buildings, schools, and homes are examples of buildings that would offer protection. Once inside, stay away from windows and doors and anything that conducts electricity such as corded phones, wiring, plumbing, and anything connected to these. In the absence of a substantial building, a hardtopped metal vehicle with the windows closed provides good protection. Occupants should avoid contact with metal in the vehicle, and to the extent possible, move away from windows.

If someone is struck by lightning, immediately call 911 for help. Victims do not carry an electrical charge and should be attended to at once. In many cases, the victim's heart and/or breathing may have stopped and CPR may be needed to revive them. Continue to monitor the victim until medical help arrives, and if possible, move the victim to a safe place to prevent another lightning strike.

Remember, If you hear it, clear it!