



# Topeka Soccer Club Lightning Policy



**TSC Proactive Planning has been established to ensure that a safe environment is established for our youth players and adults in the case of inclement/unpredictable weather that may occur while visiting our facilities.**

- a) We have established a chain of command that identifies who is to make the call to remove all individuals from the field.
- b) Staff/Field Marshal have been designated as weather watchers (A person who actively looks for the signs of threatening weather and notifies the chain of command if severe weather becomes dangerous).
- c) When thunder is heard, or a cloud-to-ground lightning bolt is seen, the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning.
- d) We will be using "WeatherBug" as a means of monitoring local weather forecasts and warnings.
- e) If any thunder or lightning is within a 10-mile radius of complex, all activities will be suspended. Coaches will instruct all players to seek shelter in covered facilities or in cars as appropriate and available. Activities may resume **once 30 minutes have passed from the final lightning strike within the 10-mile radius.**
- f) When suspension of the play occurs, all participants and spectators will be instructed to take shelter immediately.
- g) Take shelter in vehicle or Sunflower Soccer Facility restrooms. Waiting in the parking lot or fields for suspension to be lifted is not an option.
- h) Thirty-minute rule. Once the play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or flash of lightning is witnessed prior to resuming play.
- i) Any subsequent thunder or lightning after the beginning of the 30-minute count, reset the clock and another 30-minute count should begin.
- j) Established staff will be conducting periodic reviews to establish the distance and occurrence of strikes to determine when and if play should be resumed. (Always keeping in consideration of the safety of our participating young players first and foremost)
- k) Games that do not meet the designated time duration and cannot be resumed will be rescheduled and played from the beginning with both teams starting at 0-0 starting point.
- l) Games that have been suspended and cannot be resumed with one full half of play established will be considered complete and scores will be posted as such.
- m) Games that are suspended in the second half of play and cannot be resumed will be considered complete with scores being posted at the point of suspension.
- n) Reschedules will be decided game-by-game based on the severity of the weather and referee availability.



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## **Best Practices:**

Avoid being at 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, flagpoles, or light poles. Assume that 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 lie flat on the ground.

## **Observe the following basic first aid procedures in managing victims of a lightning strike:**

Activate local EMS, Lightning victims do not "carry a charge" and are safe to touch, if necessary, move the victim with care to a safer location. Evaluate airway, breathing, and circulation, and begin CPR if necessary. Evaluate and treat for hypothermia, shock, fractures, and/or burns.

All individuals have the right to leave an athletic site 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:**

A safe location is any substantial, frequently inhabited building. The building should have four solid walls (not dug out), electrical and telephone wiring, as well as plumbing, all which aid in grounding a structure.

