



Town of Reading
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RECREATION DIVISION: (781) 942 - 9075

Town of Reading Recreation Division Lightning Policy

Final

1. If threats of a lightning storm are in the area, all coaches, officials, and players should be on guard that lightning is a possibility. Coaches and officials are expected to keep their eyes on the sky. It is recommended to check weather forecasts before leaving for a game.
2. The **FIRST** sign of lighting or thunder will suspend any games/practices from continuing at that moment.
3. The league official, umpire/ref, or coach will instruct all players, coaches and fans that a danger is present and they should seek shelter immediately. Each league should establish prior who will make the decision.
4. All players, coaches, fans and umpires are expected to take cover immediately. Recommended places for shelter are buildings with active electrical circuits or hard-top vehicles.
5. Wait at least 30 minutes after the last lightning flash before resuming activities. If field conditions allow you to continue and lightning has not been present for 30 minutes, teams may continue play.
6. Umpire/ Refs, Coaches, or League Officials will determine whether or not it is safe to resume the outdoor activity. (This person will be established by the Organization.)
7. If anyone is struck by lightning (players, coaches, fans or umpires) **CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY.**

IMPORTANT NOTE: The rule of thumb for estimating distance from a thunderstorm involves counting the number of seconds between when lightning is seen and when thunder is heard. This is called the "flash to bang" method. However, many people mistakenly believe that the equation is one second equals one mile, when in reality, FIVE seconds equals one mile. To quote from the NCAA policy: "If an individual counts 15 seconds between seeing the flash and hearing the bang, 15 divided by 5 equals three; therefore the lightning flash is approximately 3 miles away. *Courtesy: Ken Tucci*

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