

# Lightning Policy

The following plan will be in effect for all City of Salem youth athletic events:

Depending on the event being played the site supervisor, game official or coach will monitor the weather. This will be done through the use of the DTN Weather Sentry Lightning and Storm detector (if equipped) or by the Flash-to Bang Method.

In the event of threatening or inclement weather the site supervisor, game official or coach will inform the participants and spectators either through the public address system or any other means available of impending severe weather.

GENERAL POLICY: A member of the City of Salem staff, if on site will monitor the weather and make the decision to notify the head coach or officials of dangerous situations and recommend the suspension of activity in the event of lightning. Exceptions will be made for any activity where an City of Staff member is not in attendance, whereby the supervising coach will have the ability to suspend activity. The decision to suspend activity will be based on:

- Two subsequent readings on the DTN Weather Sentry Lightning/Storm Detector in the 8 -20 mile range regardless of the presence of visible lightning. (This device is portable and will be in the possession of the Site Supervisor, and/or
- Utilization of the **Flash-to-Bang Method** (Count the seconds from the time the lightning is sighted to when the clap of thunder is heard. Divide this number by five to obtain how far away, in miles, the lightning is occurring.) If it reveals lightning to be within 6 miles (a 30 second count between the flash of lightning and the bang of thunder) activity is to be suspended and everyone should seek shelter immediately.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUSPENSION OF ACTIVITY: Once it is determined that there is a danger of inclement weather, the site supervisor will notify the head coach and/or official and subsequently immediately remove all players, coaches, and support staff from the playing field.

EVACUATION OF THE PLAYING FIELD AND STANDS: Immediately following the public address announcement (if available) of suspension of play all players, coaches, officials, support personnel and spectators are to evacuate the facility to their cars. They will be advised that we do not consider the areas under the stands, pavilion or dugouts to be safe in the case of lightning. All parties will be urged to remain at the facility until conditions improve unless otherwise notified by appropriate representatives.