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P.O. Box 6345, Deltona, FL 32728

www.deltonayouthsoccerclub.com

DYSC Lightening Policy

Suspension and Resumption of Activity

Outdoor activity must be suspended when lightening is a maximum of six miles away. The “30/30 Rule” should be followed when evaluating lightening danger. If lightening is 30 seconds away, it is too close, and do not resume play for 30 minutes from the last seen flash or last heard thunder. If we HEAR thunder, we assume we missed seeing the lightening, and act as if it has been seen.

Suspension

For suspension, follow the 30 second “flash-to-bang” rule. The “flash-to-bang” method is the easiest and most convenient means for determining distance to the lightening flash, which is integral to assessing the need to postpone or suspend an activity.

- To use the flash-to-bang method, the observer begins counting when a lightening flash is sighted.
- Counting stops when the associated bang is heard.
- Divide this count by 5 to determine the distance in miles to the lightening flash. Example, a count of 30 seconds would suggest a lightning strike 6 miles away.

Lightening should be monitored with the first flash of lightening or clap of thunder, no matter how far away the storm is. It is critical to monitor how far away the lightening is occurring and how fast the storm is approaching, relative to the distance of a safe shelter.

In the event that play is suspended:

- All individuals including athletes, coaches, referees, and spectators should immediately go indoors or INTO their cars to wait for the storm to pass.
- If unable to reach safe shelter, stay away from the tallest trees or objects (such as light poles or flag poles), metal objects (such as fences, bleachers or metal roofs), individual trees, standing pools of water and open fields.
- No one should be playing on the fields, or with balls outside the cars.
- It is the coach’s responsibility to manage his team’s departure from the field to their vehicles.
- Any player whose parent is not present will stay with the coach, BUT the coach will seek to join another parent so that TWO adults are always present with the kids. Ideally, the coach and team manager will be those two adults as they have both been background checked.



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Resumption

For resumption follow the 30 minute rule. Play should not be resumed until 30 minutes have passed since the LAST observed flash of lightening or clap of thunder.

Who may suspend

In the event, that the fields manager, director of coaches, director of in-house, club president, club vice president or city official issues a communication to close the fields or suspend activity, practices will be canceled as communicated.

However, everyone is responsible for maintaining an awareness of the weather.

The coach is the primary point of club authority at each practice, and as such has the responsibility to monitor weather conditions during practice, and to suspend or cancel practice should the “30/30 Rule” indicate a practice should be suspended.

Additional Notes:

1. Use of Technology –
 - a. **Portable lightening detectors** - are available, however the club has taken the position, that use of a battery operated safety device heightens the risk of failure due to battery failure. Further, dependence on a device someone must remember to turn on or bring with them is subject to failure as well. As such, the club is NOT in favor of abdicating the human decision making authority to portable battery operated detectors.
 - b. Field Lightening Monitors – are available. These hard wired lightening detectors overcome the issues associated with battery and portability, being permanent and hardwired, however such a device is not presently installed at this facility and is not scheduled to be installed or purchased in the near term. As with all hard wired electronic devices these units are also subject to damage due to surges (at times caused by lightning strikes itself). Here again the potential for failure exists. As such, the installation of a Field Lightening Monitoring Device, will not forego the human element or by-pass use of the 30/30 Rule, but would merely serve as a desirable redundancy.
 - c. Prices for a Sky Scan SKFP pro permanent installation early warning system item #xr-field-pro start at \$3299.99 plus installation