

CFOA Lightning Policy and Procedures

1. The following policy shall be followed for all CHSAA-sponsored scrimmages and games.
2. It has been recommended to the schools that an electronic weather service or lightning meter be available at all outdoor activities and be readily accessible.
3. Officials shall abide by the lightning policy of the host school district. This policy will normally not be available in writing at the site, but the officials should accept the interpretation of that policy as provided by an appropriate member of the host school. If there is not a school district policy, the following shall apply.
4. When a meter or other device is available, activities shall be suspended and all personnel directed to move to a safe area when the meter indicates there is lightning within a six mile radius. Activities shall remain suspended until the meter or weather service indicates there is no longer lightning within a six mile radius.
5. When a meter or other device is *not* available, the default NFHS policy that appears in the Rules Book shall be followed. All officials must be thoroughly familiar with the NFHS default policy as well as this policy. In brief, that policy requires suspension of all activity when cloud-to-ground lightning is observed or thunder is heard and requires a thirty minute wait after the last strike within the six mile radius.
6. When activities are suspended, the following individuals shall be responsible for the safety of personnel:
 - a. The head coach for players and other team personnel.
 - b. Game management for spectators and support personnel.
 - c. The Referee for the officiating crew.
7. In accordance with Rule 3-1-5, the referee is authorized to *delay* the game when weather conditions are construed to be hazardous to life or limb of the participants.
8. The referee will not *suspend* the game without the concurrence of both coaches. The officiating crew will remain on site and be prepared to continue the game unless all three parties (the referee and both head coaches) agree that the game cannot be continued that day.
9. If appropriate, the lightning delay can serve as the halftime intermission e.g., the game is suspended with two minutes remaining in the second quarter. When play is resumed, a short intermission is taken before the second half kickoff. Both coaches must agree to any such modification.
10. If an administrator is present (Athletic Director, Principal, School Board member, etc.) and expresses disagreement with his head coach, it is the coach's responsibility to resolve the conflict. The referee shall only consider the decision of the head coaches.
11. Prior to continuation of the game, the teams shall be afforded sufficient time to warm up as determined by the coaches.
12. If continued, the game shall resume from the point of interruption unless the teams agree to terminate the game with team that is ahead as the winner with the existing score (Rule 3-1-4). Any other agreement that is reached must result in a winner being declared. If the game is tied at the point of interruption it is recommended that it be continued until a winner is determined.
13. If a game being played under the mercy rule is halted by lightning, the game is immediately terminated.
14. Any period may be shortened by agreement of the three parties (Rule 3-1-3). Only in the rarest circumstance will the referee not honor an agreement of the two coaches.
15. If the game is suspended, the officials are entitled to the full game fee and any authorized expenses. If the game is resumed on another date, the officials are entitled to a full game fee and authorized expenses unless another arrangement is agreed upon with the host school.