

## SUBJECT: Lightning Policy and Procedures

1. The following policy shall be followed for all outdoor practices and contests.
2. It is strongly recommended that a lightning meter **or other device** be available at all outdoor activities. In situations where there are multiple practice sessions, the meter **or other device** should be centrally located and the monitor responsible for notifying the person in charge of each activity. Acceptable alternatives to a lightning meter can also be employed and include, but are not limited to, immediate contact with the National Weather Service, Weather.com, local weather services, local television or radio. Access to these sources can be through internet, cellular telephone and any other means that provides the information needed for decisions to be made.

The intent is that scientific and or electronic means may provide greater protection and information if an electrical storm is imminent.

3. 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 other device indicates there is no longer lightning within a six mile radius.
4. When a meter or other device is *not* available, the default NFHS policy that appears in the Rules Book of each sport shall be followed. In brief, that policy requires suspension of all activity when cloud-to-ground lightning is observed or thunder is heard. Implement the Thirty Minute Rule as noted in the NFHS Policy
5. 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 senior official for the officiating crew.
6. Please see the appendices for sport-specific related information.
7. All game management personnel, administrators, coaches and officials must be thoroughly familiar with the NFHS default policy as well as this policy.

### **Appendices**

- A - Football
- B - Soccer
- C - Softball
- D - Baseball
- E - Golf
- F – Lacrosse

## **Appendix A Football**

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Prior to continuation of the game, the teams shall be afforded sufficient time to warm up as determined by the coaches.
5. 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.
6. If a game being played under the mercy rule is halted by lightning, the game is immediately terminated.
7. 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.
8. 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.

## **Appendix B Soccer**

1. In accordance with Rule 7-1-3 (definitions 18-1-1jj), “in the event a game must be suspended because of conditions which make it impossible to continue play, the referee shall declare it an official game if one complete half or more of the game has been played. The game may be rescheduled from the start or restarted from the suspension of play.” By Colorado state association adoption, if one complete half has been played, the game shall be declared official.

A lightning delay, in and of itself, is not a condition which makes it impossible to play. It may require a delay in the game. The CHSAA strongly encourages officials to use great discretion when implementing Rule 7-1-3. If the game can be completed, it needs to be completed.

2. Once the game has begun the referee may, by rule, *suspend* the game without the concurrence of both coaches, but the CHSAA strongly encourages a conference before a decision is reached. The officiating crew will remain on site and be prepared to continue the game unless the game is declared official.

3. Prior to continuation of the game, the teams shall be afforded sufficient time to warm up as determined by the coaches.

4. If a suspension is warranted by lightning, a period may be shortened by agreement of the coaches or ordered by the head referee, provided it is determined to shorten the periods before the game is resumed, or before the second half begins.

5. 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.

## **Appendix C Softball**

1. In accordance with Rules 4-2-3, 2-26-1: "...by mutual agreement of the opposing coaches and the plate umpire, any remaining play may be shortened at any time or the game terminated."
2. The plate umpire will not *suspend* the game without the concurrence of both coaches. The umpire crew will remain on site and be prepared to continue the game unless all three parties (the plate umpire and both head coaches) agree that the game cannot be continued that day.
3. 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 umpire shall only consider the decision of the head coaches.
4. Prior to continuation of the game, the teams shall be afforded sufficient time to warm up as determined by the coaches.
5. 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. Any other agreement that is reached must result in a winner being declared.
6. Colorado state adoption mandates the run rules with the game being over when any team is ahead by 10 or more runs after 5 innings, 15 after 4 or 20 after 3. The home team, if behind, is due their at bat.
7. 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.