

OYAA SOCCER GUIDELINES FOR LIGHTNING AND HAZARDOUS WEATHER CONDITIONS

The protection of OYAA members and participants is of paramount importance. Every member should recognize the danger presented by lightning, tornados and other hazardous weather. The following items represent generally accepted principles regarding the dangers involved with hazardous weather conditions.

- All thunderstorms produce lightning and are dangerous.
- Lightning often strikes as far as 10 miles away from any rainfall. You are in danger from lightning if you can hear thunder. You are in danger if you can see lightning.
- Lightning can travel sideways for up to 10 miles and strike when skies are blue.
- Lightning injuries can lead to permanent disabilities or death. Look for dark cloud bases and increasing wind.
- Soccer fields are dangerous places to be during a lightning storm. When lightning is seen or thunder is heard, or when dark threatening clouds are observed, quickly suspend the game and/or practice and move to a safe location.
- Avoid standing in an open area, near soccer goals, under a tent, near trees or in water. The safest place during a thunderstorm with or without visible lightning is in a car.

GAME SUSPENSION REQUIREMENTS:

If any of the circumstances outlined below occurs, the referee should immediately suspend the game.

1. If thunder is heard, the game should be suspended and the fields cleared.
2. If lightning is seen, the game should be suspended and the fields cleared.
3. If a thunderstorm is heard or seen coming, the game should be suspended and the fields cleared. Do not wait until it rains.

If the game official does not immediately suspend the game when any one of the points above have occurred, the head coach from each team can agree that one of the three criteria listed above have occurred and they are to withdraw their teams from the field.

No one should retake the field or re-start the game until all of the lightning and thunder or other hazardous weather has left the area. Specifically, no one should retake the field for a minimum of 30 minutes after the last lightning is seen or thunder is heard, or dangerously high winds have passed.