

# Lightning Policy



No weather condition poses a greater danger for outdoor activities than lightning.

NFHS has developed guidelines to assist schools, coaches and officials in handling lightning situations.

\* SCISA has adopted a policy to help provide additional information in the decision making process.

## Guidelines for Game Management and Game Officials to use regarding Lightning

The purpose of these guidelines is to provide information to those responsible for making decisions about suspending and restarting games based on the presence of lightning. If at all possible, staff should monitor local weather conditions before and during events.

1. If the facility/school has an on-site lightning detection system, those warnings must be heeded.
- \* 2. SCISA requires that all schools shall have a **Lightning Detection Device** or subscribe to a **Lightning Detection Service** and have it on-site to assist game management with inclement weather decisions and/or stoppage/resumption of play (*SCISA Policy*).
3. In addition to or in absence of an on-site detection/warning system and/ or subscription service, game management shall use the following criteria for suspension of play and resumption of play:
  - A. When thunder is heard or a cloud-to-ground lightning bolt is seen, the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play and take shelter immediately.
  - B. The **30-minute Rule**. Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or flash of lightning is witnessed prior to resuming play.
  - C. Any subsequent thunder or lightning after the beginning of the 30-minute count, reset the clock and another 30-minute count should begin.
4. Schools should develop an evacuation plan, including identification of appropriate nearby shelters.