

SYSA Lightning Safety Policy

The game referee, SYSA referee coordinator, SYSA safety coordinator or SYSA field coordinator have the discretion to cancel games due to unsafe local conditions, such as foul weather or other unacceptable playing conditions. The decision shall be at the discretion of the referees/coordinators without any interference from coaches, players or spectators. Player safety will be the primary criterion for the cancellation of any game; not simply whether everyone present wishes to play or not. In the event lightning is detected in the area, all play will immediately suspend. The referee can restart the game, if within 20 minutes of the game suspension, the lightning threat is over. If by 40 minutes the lightning threat is not over, the Referee will terminate the game. The count of 20 minutes starts at the time of the last detected lightning.

If a game is terminated after the completion of the first half, the score at that time will be the final score. If a game is terminated prior to the end of the first half, the game will be replayed. SYSA will confirm the replay date and time.

During practice or tryout sessions the lightning policy as stated above is in effect. If anyone present at the field detects lightning the session should be suspended immediately and players/coaches should report to a safe place; preferably an automobile. While it is recommended that the coach terminate the session for that day; he/she can restart the session, if within 20 minutes of the suspension, the lightning threat is over.

Safety Points:

1. When thunder is heard, clear the fields. Lightning can travel up to 11 miles ahead of a storm.
2. When clearing fields, everyone should move to shelter inside a vehicle or building; not under trees.
3. Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) from the National Weather Service. This service is available through some wireless providers and is transmitted by cell towers in geographic areas of a storm. If alert is received, fields should be cleared.
4. In the event someone is struck by lightning, quickly move them to a place of refuge and call 911. Have a certified CPR trained person and begin CPR if necessary. Have another person retrieve automatic external defibrillator (AED) from the concession stand.
5. Check the weather forecast prior to games or training sessions.