

SUBJECT: Liberty Hill Youth League (LHYL) Severe Weather Policy

1. References:

- a. University Interscholastic League Lightning Safety
(<https://www.uil-texas.org/health/info/lightning-safety>)
- b. National Weather Service Lightning Safety Tips and Resources
(<https://www.weather.gov/safety/lightning>)
- c. National Weather Service Tornado Safety Rules
(https://www.weather.gov/bmx/sps_torsafetyrules)
- d. WeatherBug Spark Lightning Detection
 - i. Website- <https://www.weatherbug.com/alerts/spark/liberty-hill-tx-78642>
 - ii. Android- <https://tinyurl.com/4e7ehnsj>
 - iii. iOS- <https://tinyurl.com/24urkwx8>

2. The LHYL Board President retains authority to update or change the severe weather policy as he/she deems necessary to protect the health and safety of all players, coaches, volunteers, umpires, spectators at LHYL events.

3. The LHYL Board President may delegate his/her authority to make “severe weather calls” to the LHYL Director of Operations. The Director of Operations may delegate this authority further to a Vice President or a single division commissioner for a limited period of time (single day or week). The Board President will not delegate this authority below division commissioners or to umpires.

3. The LHYL Director of Operations will review the policy annually and provide recommended updates or changes at the February board meeting. The LHYL Board President will certify this policy annually before spring assessments.

4. This policy applies to everyone attending LHYL events and all LHYL fields.

5. This policy does not cover cancellations or delays related to weather related field conditions commonly known as “rain outs”.

5. Lightning Policy.

- a. A designated individual (coach or parent) from each team must have an application installed that provides GPS-based, real time lightning strikes alerts when lightning strikes within 10 nautical miles of the teams current location.
 - i. LHYL will prioritize information obtained from Weather Bug’s Spark Lightning Detection system to make weather decisions.
 - ii. Teams must configure lightning alert applications to use GPS location and enable push alerts to immediately notify teams of lightning strikes.
- b. If there is a lightning alert or observation within the 10 nautical mile range:
 - i. During a game the umpire must be alerted. The umpires will suspend the game to contact the appropriate commissioner or board representative.

- ii. During practice, the head coach must be alerted. The head coach will suspend practice and notify their division commissioner that a lightning strike has been observed (visually or through weather application notification).
 - iii. Players, coaches, umpires, volunteers, and spectators must vacate the field and dugouts.
 - iv. Players, coaches, umpires, volunteers, and spectators will seek shelter in accordance with lightning safety tips published by the national weather service. At a minimum, all personnel will shelter away from fields and dugouts and inside a vehicle.
 - v. All activities are suspended for 30 mins from the last observed or reported lightning strike. After 30 minutes have passed, a reevaluation will occur. If the lightning has not ceased, ALL individuals will wait an additional 30 minutes.
 - vi. If after one hour (60 minutes) lightning activity has not ceased and the LHYL has not made the official weather call, the (home team) head coach on each field is responsible for suspending all activities on each field and reporting to their respective commissioners.
 - vii. The LHYL Director of Operations (or designated representative) may review local weather radar to determine if severe weather is directly approaching the park and will positively move through the playing area. If it is determined, at this time that it will, then all play should be suspended, and all participants asked to vacate the fields.
- c. Any lightning observation or alert event applies to all LHYL fields and events.
- i. LHYL division commissioners will inform the LHYL Director of Operations as soon as they receive a lightning observation or alert event.
 - ii. The LHYL Director of Operations will notify the President, and Vice Presidents that lightning safety measures are active for all fields.
 - iii. The Vice Presidents will notify their division commissioners that all events are suspended. Commissioners will contact their coaches to ensure lightning safety measures are implemented.
 - iv. The Director of Operations or designated representative will make the “all clear” call when favorable weather conditions return.

6. Severe Weather Policy.

- a. LHYL will cancel all events when any LHYL facility is included in a severe weather or tornado warning area by the national weather service.
- b. LHYL will actively monitor local weather and radar information when any LHYL facility is included in a severe weather or tornado watch area by the national weather service. The LHYL VP of Baseball, VP of Softball, or Director of Operations may recommend canceling events to the LHYL Board President to preserve the health and safety of all LHYL players, coaches, umpires, volunteers, and spectators.

7. This is a ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY. This lightning policy is for the safety of our children and all participants in LHYL activities.

- a. Any team that violates this policy will have their next scheduled activity canceled and the head coach will be asked to appear at the next scheduled LHYL Board meeting.
- b. Any volunteer, parent or spectator that violates this policy will be suspended from attending LHYL events for a period of time determined by the LHYL Board of Directors.

8. Point of Contact for this policy is the LHYL President. Coordinate any questions or recommendations through the LHYL Board Secretary at lhylpresident@gmail.com .