

Lightning Guidelines

Lightning is the most consistent and significant weather hazard that may affect interscholastic athletes. Within the United States, the National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL) estimates more than 100 fatalities and 400-500 injuries requiring medical treatment occur from lightning strikes every year. While the probability of being struck by lightning is extremely low, the odds are significantly greater when a storm is in the area and the proper safety precautions are not followed.

Prevention and education of our coaches are the keys to lightning safety. Education begins with information on lightning. The references associated with these guidelines are an appropriate resource. Prevention should begin long before any athletic event or practice is held. The following steps are recommended by the NCAA and NSSL to mitigate the lightning hazard.

Coaches and Athletic Trainers should emphasize the importance of following the UIL Lightning Safety Recommendations

- The Perry Weather System will be used to monitor all weather conditions: Cold, Heat and Lightning
- Postpone or suspend activity if a thunderstorm appears imminent. Imminent thunderstorm signs are: building up of darkening clouds, increased/high winds, precipitation, and/or thunder/lightning activity.
- Lightning awareness should begin with the first flash of lightning seen and/or thunder clap heard.
- Any individual has the right to leave an athletic site in order to seek a safe structure if the person feels in danger of impending lightning activity, without fear of repercussions or penalty from anyone.

The notification of suspension or canceling/rescheduling a practice or game will be designated by: an Athletic Trainer, Head Coach, Athletic Coordinator/Director and/or an Administrator utilizing the Perry Weather Lightning Alert System.

Lightning Alert Procedures

- When a lightning strike occurs, within a 10-mile radius, the Perry Weather System will push text notifications out. The notification will state a stoppage of activity and to seek safe shelter: a bus, dressing room, or other building. A dugout or awning is not considered safe shelter.
 - Orem Stadium
 - Home Team - Locker Room in the Muledome
 - Visiting Team - Visitors Locker Room
 - Practice Field
 - Home Team - Locker Room in the Muledome
 - Visiting Team - Weight Room
 - Baseball Field
 - Home & Visiting Team - Batting Cage Building
 - Softball Field
 - Home & Visiting Team - Field Locker Rooms
 - Tennis Complex - Tennis Center Building
 - The Junior School - Inside the gym
 - Spectators must be advised to clear the fields and proceed to a safe shelter.

- When there has been no lightning strikes within a 10-mile radius for 30 consecutive minutes, the Perry Weather System will send out an ‘All-Clear - Resume Activities’ text message.
 - Examples:
 - At 1:00pm, the 1st lightning strike occurs. If there are no additional lightning strikes after 30 minutes, participation can resume at 1:30pm
 - At 1:00pm, the 1st lightning strike occurs. The last lightning strike, within the 10 mile radius, happens at 1:20pm, participation can resume at 1:50pm.
- For practice suspensions; after the text notification, Athletic Trainers will verify athletics have stopped and seeked safe shelter.
- For game suspensions; after the text notification, either the Coach, Athletic Trainer, Athletic Director and/or Administrator will notify the other team(s) and provide a safe area for them. Spectators must be advised to clear the fields and proceed to a safe shelter.

In the event AHISD Athletics participates outside of the district, we will adhere to the Lightning Guidelines set at that venue. In the event that a venue lacks its own Lightning Guidelines, we will follow our own Lightning Guideline as prescribed by the Perry Weather System.

Public Address Announcement

“Lightning has been monitored in the immediate area and this sporting event has been temporarily suspended. All team members have been advised to seek shelter in the designated safe locations. The game will resume following an All Clear Notification. All spectators are advised to leave the stadium bleachers at this time. The stadium is an unsafe location for you to remain during the lightning storm.”

Alternate Lightning Alert Procedure (for when the Perry Weather System is unavailable)

When thunder is heard within 30 seconds of a visible lightning strike, the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play and take shelter immediately. Wait at least thirty minutes following the last sound of thunder or lightning flash prior to resuming an activity or returning outdoors.

AHISD Athletic Department reserves the right to modify and/or cancel practices and/or games due to extreme weather conditions.