

Grayslake Colts

When lightning threatens



This policy addresses what to do when practice or games are in progress and a lightning storm approaches our field.

Monitoring: Parents and coaches should always monitor the weather. The weather channel is helpful, but if you have access to the internet, <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/> is a terrific web site to check current conditions, alerts and radar. Eyes in the sky are just a good too.

Initial reaction

- Looking for the danger signs: Distant lightning and thunder.

Facts:

- Fact: Lightning often strikes outside of heavy rain and may occur as far as 10 miles away from any rainfall.
- Fact: Lightning has "favorite" sites that it may hit many times during one storm.
- Fact: Lightning is a major threat during a thunderstorm. If you are caught outdoors, avoid natural lightning rods such as tall, isolated trees in an open area or the top of a hill and metal objects such as wire fences, golf clubs and metal tools.

Suspension declaration: At the sight of lightning and/or the sound of thunder practice or games will be suspended for at least 30 minutes. Director of Football and Director of Cheerleading (and/or the assist directors) will be the likely persons making this declaration; however every coach can and should make this call for their team.

Coaches Action:

1. Coaches are responsible for the getting the athletes to the safe refuge area.
2. An athlete, who rode their bike or walked to the field themselves, must go to the safe refuge area. Coaches will not send the athlete home until the threat of the storm has passed or someone has picked them up.
3. Parents present during the declaration may take their child to their car to wait or leave (depending on the declaration announcement).

Parental Action

1. If you are present during the suspension declaration, then report to the coaching staff that you are taking your athlete to wait or leave (depending on the declaration announcement)
2. If you are not present during the suspension declaration and you realize there is a severe storm with lightning, you will find your athlete at the safe refuge area.
3. Make sure your athlete's coach has your emergency contact information.

Safe Refuge area: the front of Grayslake Middle School has been designated by the Colts as our Safe Refuge area for those athletes who are unable to leave with their parents at the time of the suspension declaration. Ideally this should take 10 minutes or less.

If the school is open, athletes will leave their equipment outside in front of the school, they will remove and hold on to their shoes, sit quietly in the hall with their team.