

SUBJECT: Lightning Policy and Procedures

1. The following policy shall be followed for all outdoor practices and contests.
2. It is strongly recommended that a lightning meter **or other device** be available at all outdoor activities. In situations where there are multiple practice sessions, the meter **or other device** should be centrally located and the monitor responsible for notifying the person in charge of each activity. Acceptable alternatives to a lightning meter can also be employed and include, but are not limited to, immediate contact with the National Weather Service, Weather.com, local weather services, local television or radio. Access to these sources can be through internet, cellular telephone and any other means that provides the information needed for decisions to be made.

The intent is that scientific and or electronic means may provide greater protection and information if an electrical storm is imminent.

3. When a meter or other device is available, activities shall be suspended and all personnel directed to move to a safe area when the meter indicates there is lightning within a six mile radius. Activities shall remain suspended until the meter or other device indicates there is no longer lightning within a six mile radius.
4. When a meter or other device is *not* available, the default NFHS policy that appears in the Rules Book of each sport shall be followed. In brief, that policy requires suspension of all activity when cloud-to-ground lightning is observed or thunder is heard. Implement the Thirty Minute Rule as noted in the NFHS Policy
5. When activities are suspended, the following individuals shall be responsible for the safety of personnel:
 - a. The head coach for players and other team personnel.
 - b. Game management for spectators and support personnel.
 - c. The senior official for the officiating crew.
6. Please see the appendices for sport-specific related information.
7. All game management personnel, administrators, coaches and officials must be thoroughly familiar with the NFHS default policy as well as this policy.

Appendices

- A - Football
- B - Soccer
- C - Softball
- D - Baseball
- E - Golf
- F – Lacrosse