

# BYBSL Lightning Safety Policy

During practices, the coaches will make this decision unless a BYBSL League Board Member is present to make the decision.

During games, the umpires will make this decision unless a BYBSL League Board Member is present to make the decision.

## Within a 10 mile radius:

Start removing players / coaches from field. Players and coaches can stay in dugout / press box. Spectators should go to covered area under concession stand, bathrooms or to their cars. Coaches / Umpires are to closely monitor the situation.

## Within a 6 mile radius:

Play is OFFICIALLY suspended. Everyone should be removed from the playing fields and spectator areas and sent to a shelter. Shelters at Blythewood Park are considered to be the bathrooms, shed, or the individual's respective cars. The Library is alternate solution if open at time of inclement weather. The covered area under concession stand is not considered a shelter at this point.

**\*\*\*Play may resume 30 minutes after the last lightning strike that was within the 6 mile radius.\*\*\***

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## Lightning Facts

- Approximately 70 people are killed by lightning and 400 are injured in any given year in the U.S. (NOAA)
- On average, 10% of strike victims die and 70% suffer serious long term effects. (NOAA)
- The second most likely place of occurrence for a person to be struck is at a ball field or open field. (Golf courses are the most likely location). (Angel and Hison 1995)
- Bolts of lightning reach temperatures as high as 50,000 degrees.
- The average thunderstorm is six to ten miles wide.
- The average rate of travel of a thunderstorm is 25 mph.
- Lightning can strike from as far away as 10 miles.

## Lightning Myths Exposed

- Heat lightning is not harmless. Heat lightning is regular lightning that is too far away to be heard. It can pose a threat if it moves into your area.
- Tennis shoes with rubber soles offer little protection against a lightning bolt.
- If lightning strikes a vehicle, the occupants can still be injured (even though the car has rubber tires and the windows are up) if the occupants are touching metal or any conducting path going to the outside of the vehicle. However, the risk of injury or death while inside a vehicle is much less than staying outside a vehicle but greater than taking shelter within a sturdy building. The metal shell of the vehicle provides the protection- not the rubber tires.
- A person who has been struck by lightning does not carry an electrical charge and must receive immediate first aid/CPR.

**DISCLAIMER: NO PLACE OUTSIDE IS SAFE FROM LIGHTNING NEAR THUNDERSTORMS. THE GUIDELINES REFERENCED IN THIS ARTICLE ARE NOT 100% SAFE DUE TO THE RANDOM AND UNPREDICTABLE NATURE OF LIGHTNING.**

Kevin W. Allen

League President or Representative (Printed)

9-27-18

Date

Kevin W. Allen

League President or Representative (Signed)