

Gospel Projects Lightning Policy

Seeking a safe structure or vehicle at the first sign of lightning or thunder activity is highly recommended. All individuals should be inside when lightning strikes approach within ten (10) miles from the field of play. **The WeatherBug app provides local and regional lightning information for Gospel Projects Park.**

- WeatherBug App will be the primary indicator used to determine if play should continue when available. The Field Supervisor covering the event will suspend play or cancel events if lightning is within ten (10) miles.
- Play will not resume until an all-clear message has been received from the Field Supervisor. An all-clear message is sent at a **20-minute minimum** after the last lightning strike is detected.

Recommendations for safe locations are as follows:

1. Substantial buildings that are fully enclosed
2. A vehicle with a metal roof and the windows completely closed. Convertible vehicles, golf carts, or utility vehicles are not acceptable.
3. Avoid being in contact with, or near **the highest point of an open field or on the open water.**
4. Do not take shelter **under or near trees, flagpoles, or light poles.**
5. If you or an athlete feels “hair stand on end or skin tingle or hear crackling noises” you should assume the lightning position. The position is crouched on the ground, weight on the balls of the feet, feet together, head lowered, and ears covered. **DO NOT LIE FLAT ON THE GROUND.**
6. People who have been struck by lightning do not carry an electrical charge. Therefore, cardiopulmonary resuscitation is safe for the responder. If possible, an injured person should be moved to a safer location before starting CPR and emergency plans should be carried out.

****All individuals including players have the right to leave an athletic site or activity without fear of repercussion or penalty, in order to seek a safe structure or location if they feel they are in danger from impending lightning activity.**

PROCEDURE:

Practices

1. When dangerous weather is projected, the Park Supervisor present at practice will notify the coaches of approaching weather.
2. If the Field Supervisor is notified of a strike within ten (10) miles, they will notify the coaches.
3. The coach will stop practice at notification of the first sign of lightning within ten (10) miles. The team will move to a safe location immediately.
4. Practice may resume once the Field Supervisor has received an “All Clear” message from the WeatherBug App.

Competition/Game:

1. If poor weather is suspected, the Field Supervisor will discuss the Lightning Policy with referees/umpires before the start of the competition.
2. During competition the Field Supervisor will advise the referees/umpires at the first sign of the lightning alert within ten (10) miles or a lightning strike is observed.
3. The referee/umpire will then stop the game and clear the field.
4. Both teams participating will immediately move to vehicles.
5. Competition may resume once an “All Clear” message has been received from WeatherBug App unless the games were cancelled.

****Spectators may be notified via public address system that it is recommended they move to their vehicles.**