

Florence Soccer Association Lightning Safety Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the safety of all players, coaches, referees, and spectators during practices, games, and events in the presence of lightning and thunder.

General Policy

Lightning is a serious safety hazard and the second leading cause of storm-related deaths in the U.S. All FSA participants must prioritize safety and follow this policy during threatening weather conditions.

Lightning Safety Protocol

Immediate Suspension of Activity

- **Rule of Thumb: “If you can see it or hear it, clear it!”**
- Activities (games, practices, warmups, etc.) must be suspended if:
 - **Lightning is seen**
 - **Thunder is heard**
 - Lightning is detected within a 10 mile radius of location, whether thunder is audible or not

Note: Lightning can strike even when skies are clear overhead. Be alert to storm clouds nearby.

Lightning Detection Systems

- At the **Florence Soccer Complex**, a **Lightning Detection Alert System** will sound a **long siren** when lightning is detected within a **10-mile radius**.
 - Upon hearing the siren: **Clear all fields immediately** and seek shelter.
- At **ESAB Fields** (or any location without a detection system), **coaches and assistants are responsible** for weather monitoring using reliable sources such as the **WeatherBug app**.
 - Be sure to **enable location services** so the app gives accurate proximity alerts.

Seeking Shelter

- **Acceptable shelters include:**
 - Automobiles with windows fully rolled up
 - Designated severe weather shelters (if available)
- **Unacceptable shelters include:**
 - Tents
 - Picnic shelters
 - Open fields
 - Trees or other isolated tall objects
 - Avoid contact with metal objects or surfaces connected to the outside of your shelter.

Resuming Activities

- Do **not** resume any outdoor soccer activities until **30 full minutes** have passed since the **last 10 mile radius strike, visible lightning strike**, or thunderclap.
 - Restart the 30-minute countdown when additional lightning is seen during the wait.

Coach and Staff Responsibilities

- All **coaches, assistant coaches, and team staff** are responsible for:
 - Monitoring weather conditions
 - Communicating clearly with one another
 - Enforcing this policy without exception
 - Ensuring all participants and spectators follow evacuation and shelter procedures

Recommended Tools

- **WeatherBug App** (or other reliable weather apps)
 - Enable location services for accurate lightning proximity alerts

Summary

- If lightning is detected within a 10 mile radius or you can see lightning or hear thunder, clear the field immediately.
- Seek safe shelter — vehicles or designated shelters only
- Wait 30 FULL minutes after the last strike within a 10 mile radius before resuming play
- Safety first — always err on the side of caution

Florence Soccer Association is committed to the safety of its community. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our players, coaches, and families safe.