

Claremore Soccer club lightning policy

During game days, the Board Member on Duty has ultimate responsibility for clearing the fields.

Criteria for Evacuation of the Practice/Game Area

The CLSC policy will be as follows:

The CLSC Coach or Board Member will inform the visiting team of CLSC policy with regards to lightning during pre-game warm-ups if weather conditions warrant.

The CLSC Board Member on Duty will monitor the lightning detector, will watch for lightning and listen for thunder, and will be responsible for determining when the fields are to be cleared.

When the 8-20 mile alarm indicator is illuminated on the lightning detector, the BMOD of the Day will retrieve the bullhorn and stand ready to clear the fields.

When the 3-8 mile alarm indicator is illuminated on the lightning detector, the BMOD of the Day will sound the audible siren on the bullhorn for at least 5 seconds and suspend all games/practices. Everyone must evacuate to a safe structure or location. A safe structure at CLSC would be defined as either inside the Clubhouse. The exterior of the clubhouse and the pavilion area are not safe areas and these areas should be cleared.

Everyone who is not inside one of these structures should be sent to their vehicle. A vehicle is considered safe if it is fully enclosed with a hard metal roof, rubber tires, and completely closed windows. Persons should not touch the sides of the vehicle! Convertible and "soft-top" vehicles, and golf carts do not provide a high level of protection and cannot be considered safe from lightning.

Persons should avoid using plumbing facilities and land-line telephones during a thunderstorm.

If unable to reach safe shelter, persons should stay away from the tallest trees or objects (i.e. light poles, flag poles, etc.), metal objects (i.e. fences, bleachers, etc.), individual trees, standing pools of water, and open fields. Persons should avoid being the highest object in an open field.

In situations where thunder and/or lightning may or may not be present, yet someone feels his/her hair stand on end and skin tingle, LIGHTNING IS IMMINENT! Therefore, all persons should assume the "lightning-safe" position as described above.

A cellular and/or portable remote phone is a safe alternative to land-line phones, if the person and the antenna are located within a safe structure or location, and if all other precautions are followed.

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

Criteria for Safe Return to the Practice/Game Area

Personnel should not return to the practice/game area until thirty (30) minutes have passed since the last lightning flash or the lightning detector indicates that lightning is greater than 20 miles away.

Each time lightning is observed and/or thunder is heard, the “30-minute clock” is to be reset.

Blue skies in the local area and/or a lack of rainfall are not adequate reasons to breach the 20-minute return-to-play rule. Lightning can strike up to ten (10) miles away from the rain shaft of a storm.