**South Orlando Babe Ruth**

**Lightning Policy**

**Background:**

Florida leads the nation in lightning strikes and deaths caused by lightning. Where there is thunder there is lightning. Shelter should be sought when lightning is detected within the minimal acceptable range. Safe shelters are inside a building or in a car with the windows rolled up. Unsafe shelters are high places and open fields, isolated trees, unprotected gazebos, rain or picnic shelters, baseball dugouts, flagpoles, light poles, bleachers and golf carts.

**Part 1: Stoppage of activities**

* All activities will be halted when lightning is detected at the 6 mile or closer range.
* All players, coaches and spectators shall seek shelter inside a building or in their cars.
* All activities will be halted for a minimum of 30 minutes. The clock will restart every time a lightning flash is detected at the 6 mile or closer range.

(Note: if a parent or guardian wishes to remove a child from activities if lightning is detected outside the 6 mile range they shall be allowed to do so without penalty)

**Part 2: Responsibility for stoppage**

* All board members, coaches and assistant coaches shall have a lightning detector app on their phone.
* Any board member, coach or assistant coach can call for all activities to cease if they detect lightning at 6 miles or closer.

**Part 3: Resumption of activities**

* All activities can resume once lightning is no closer than 6 miles, the 30 minute window has expired and the field or area is safe to resume activities.

**Part 4: Education**

* All board members, coaches and assistant coaches will be given a copy of this policy.
* Directors will review this policy with their coaches each season (spring and fall) at their coaches meeting.
* Coaches will review the policy with their players and parents/guardians.
* All new coaches will be given a copy of this policy.
* The policy will be posted on the leagues web site.