

# **Bryan National Little League Lightning and Hazardous Weather Policy**

In accordance with **Appendix A - Lightning Safety Guidelines** of the Little League rule book, local leagues shall have a lightning safety plan and designate someone to monitor the weather for lightning that is not a coach, umpire, or referee. The monitor should know the plan's guidelines and be empowered to assure that those guidelines are followed.

## **Lightning or hazardous weather is deemed imminent if any of the following exists:**

1. Thunder is heard.
2. A lightning strike within 10 miles is observed. Observation can include:
  - a. Witnessing lightening while at Bob Bond Park.
  - b. Utilizing an application such as Weather Bug or other that detects a strike within 10 miles.

## **What to do if lightning or hazardous weather is deemed imminent**

If lightning or hazardous weather becomes imminent all participants and other attendees present shall seek a lightning-safe structure.

According to the National Weather Service, a **lightning-safe structure** is either a substantial building (one with plumbing and wiring such as a home, school, church, office building, indoor concourse or recreation center) or an enclosed metal vehicle. Since there is not a large lightning-safe structure at Bob Bond Park, participants and attendees shall evacuate the field and find shelter in an enclosed metal vehicle.

## **Prior to the Event:**

The board member on duty at Bob Bond Park, in conjunction with the designated lightning monitor and the president of the league, will act as the lightning and hazardous weather monitors and will monitor weather related threats for the day. They will make every attempt to cancel any scheduled event before anyone shows up at the fields if lightning or hazardous weather is imminent and forecast to be long in duration. The goal is not to overreact, but to know that the majority of our members would rather know early and not come to the park and then have the event be cancelled or rescheduled. If lightning or hazardous weather becomes imminent within 30 or fewer minutes of start time, the event may be cancelled if the forecast is for the hazardous weather to be long in duration. If cancelled, the event may be rescheduled. If the forecast is for the hazardous weather to pass through quickly, the event may have a delayed start. Cancellation and/or delayed start will be communicated as soon as a decision is made.

Therefore, any event, for one example, scheduled to begin at 5:50 p.m. may be delayed or may be cancelled, depending on the predicted duration of the hazardous weather. This will not necessarily cancel or delay a later event on the same evening.

## **During the Event:**

During the event, the board member on duty will act as the lightning and hazardous weather monitor. If lightning or hazardous weather during an event is a possibility, but not imminent, the board member on duty will inform umpires and coaches of the possibility and what actions will be

taken if it becomes imminent. It is important that time is taken to reduce the amount of time that will be necessary in the event that lightning or hazardous weather becomes imminent.

If lightning or hazardous weather becomes imminent during a game or other scheduled event, the event shall be suspended and all participants and other attendees shall seek a lightning-safe structure. At Bob Bond Park, everyone will go to a vehicle with a metal roof.

If the board member on duty decides that the weather and forecast indicate the game should be delayed, then he/she will wait a minimum of 30 minutes from the last observed lightning or thunder before resuming activities. The board member on duty and the manager (or manager's designated coach) from each team will report to the BNLL board room to monitor the weather. The manager/coach will communicate with his/her team as updates are necessary.

If the Board Member on Duty decides the weather and forecast dictates the game should be cancelled, then the board member on duty shall inform the umpires and/or coaches on each field and the concession stand staff of the decision.

Once the decision is made to cancel or delay an event, the board member on duty will not debate this decision with anyone

Rescheduling of events that are cancelled will be handled with a different operating policy.

*Approved by Bryan National Little League Board of Directors for 2018*

## Notes from the National Weather Service

- ***There is no safe place outside when thunderstorms are in the area.*** If you hear thunder you are likely within striking distance of the storm. Just remember, “**When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!**”
- A **lightning-safe structure** is either a substantial building (one with plumbing and wiring such as a home, school, church, office building, indoor concourse or recreation center) or an enclosed metal vehicle. Once inside, stay away from showers, sinks, bath tubs, and electric equipment such as stoves, radios, corded telephones and computers.
- **Unsafe buildings** include car ports, open garages, covered patios, picnic shelters, beach pavilions, and golf shelters, tents of any kind, baseball dugouts, sheds, and partially enclosed vending areas.
- A **safe vehicle** is any fully enclosed metal-topped vehicle such as a hard-topped car, minivan, bus, truck, etc. While inside a vehicle, do not open any windows and do not use electronic devices such as radio communications or touch metal framework during a thunderstorm.
- **Unsafe vehicles** include golf carts, convertibles, motorcycles, or any other open cab vehicle
- **Severe Thunderstorm Warnings are *not* issued based on lightning.** All thunderstorms produce thunder and lightning and are potentially deadly. A **Severe Thunderstorm Watch** or a **Tornado Watch** are issued when conditions are favorable for the development of severe storms (wind gusts in excess of 58 MPH, quarter size hail or larger, or tornadoes). A **Severe Thunderstorm or Tornado Warning** is issued when severe weather has been detected or may be imminent.
- Most victims survive a lightning strike; however medical attention is needed immediately. Have someone call 911. Victims do not carry an electrical charge and can be touched. In many cases, the victim’s heart and/or breathing may stop and rescue breathing and/or CPR may be needed. Monitor the victim until medical help arrives; heart and/or respiratory problems could persist, or the victim could go into shock. If possible, move the victim to a safer place away from the threat of another lightning strike.
- Lightning can strike outside of the rain area or thunderstorm cloud. In extreme cases, “bolts from the blue” can strike 10-15 miles from the thunderstorm. Don’t wait for rain to get to a safe structure and don’t leave the safe structure just because the rain has let up.
- Many lightning casualties occur because people do not seek a safe structure soon enough. Not wanting to appear overly cautious, many people wait far too long before reacting to this potentially deadly weather threat.
- Don’t hesitate to stop the event and have patrons seek a lightning-safe structure if the sky appears threatening (especially if your weather watcher knows thunderstorms are a possibility). Thunderstorms can develop directly overhead and some storms may develop lightning just as they move into your area.
- Only about 10% of people who are struck by lightning are killed, leaving 90% with various degrees of disability, including life-long debilitating injuries.

