

WAA Girls Softball Lightning Guidelines

Basic facts about lightning according to the National Weather Services National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

- Each year in the United States more than four hundred people are struck by lightning. On average about 70 people each year are killed.
- All thunderstorms produce lightning and are dangerous!
- Lightning often strikes outside the area of heavy rain and may strike as far as 10 miles from any rainfall.
- If you hear thunder you are in danger.

To avoid exposure to the risks of lightning take the following precautions.

- Avoid open areas. Lightning tends to strike taller objects. Stay away from trees, towers, utility poles, sheds, small or open shelters, dugouts and bleachers.
- Cars with hard tops are very safe although avoid touching any metal.

If you feel your hair stand on end this may indicate lightning is about to strike-

- Crouch down on the balls of your feet put your hands over your ears and bend your head down. Do not lie flat on ground.

What to do if someone is struck by lightning.

- Call for help! 911
- Lightning victims do not carry an electrical charge, are safe to handle and need immediate medical attention!

- Give first aid. Cardiac arrest is the immediate cause of death in lightning fatalities.
- If possible move the victim to a safer place; lightning **CAN** strike the same place twice.

Procedure to clear fields in case of lightning.

- There will be two (2) three (3) second blasts on air horn.
- All coaches, players, officials and fans will leave the fields and take shelter in their cars.
- When the weather system has passed and the decision has been made to resume play (*30 minutes after last lightning sighting*), one three (3) second blast of the air horn will be sounded to return to the fields.
- If games are cancelled two (2) three (3) second blasts will sound and all participants must leave the park.
- The decision to clear the fields will be made by the umpire on hand.
- If no umpire is on hand the decision will be made by the WAA representative in charge at the time.

The girl's safety is first!
There is no wrong decision.