



## SECTION 4

### Lightning Protocol

1. Each NCISAA member school must have a plan to address inclement weather for players, officials, visitors, and fans. This plan should include:
  - 1.1. Safe locations from the lightning hazard for all venues and communicate these locations.
  - 1.2. Establish a system to warn athletes and spectators of potential lightning danger.
  - 1.3. Designate a weather spotter to monitor conditions.
  - 1.4. Have a plan for safely dismissing student-athletes if a contest is suspended.
2. The game day administrator should communicate this information prior to contests in the **PRE-GAME MEETING** (General Rules & Regulations; Section 4; 5.1.-5.1.3.).
3. The safety of the student-athlete is the direct responsibility of the individual head coach, athletic trainer and/or administrator in charge. It is the home team's responsibility to notify visiting teams and officials of the lightning policy and inform them, ahead of time, about where to seek shelter should there be threatening weather.
4. Enforcement of these standards is the responsibility of the game administrators, athletic trainers and coaches.
5. When a situation arises where any of the above mentioned parties feels the athletes are in danger he/she shall call the officials and the opposing team head coach together and express concern regarding the weather.
6. The administrator in charge and/or officials have the authority to discontinue play until a safe environment is restored.
7. The decision to discontinue and resume play will not be compromised as a result of concerns over travel or time.
8. On-site commercial lightning prediction/detection systems can be used to make decisions for pre-empting and resuming play.
9. Other electronic devices including weather apps are useful tools, but cannot be used as the sole determination for stopping or resuming play.
10. When thunder is heard or lightning is seen, stop activity immediately. At night, under certain atmospheric conditions, lightning flashes may be seen from distant storms. In these cases, it may be safe to continue an event. If no thunder can be heard and the flashes are low on the horizon, the storm may not pose a threat. Independently verified lightning detection information would help eliminate any uncertainty.
11. Seek an enclosed shelter at once (i.e. buildings, buses, restrooms; not dugouts, picnic shelters or trees). Leave equipment out if it cannot be brought in immediately.
12. In the event that either of the above situations occur, allow 30 minutes to pass after the last sound of thunder or sight of lightning that is followed by thunder before resuming play.