

The Greater Cincinnati Soccer League policy is to be utilized for all games, friendly games, tryouts and practices involving all GCSL Clubs and teams. In addition, all tournaments sanctioned by GCSL for the benefit of its member Clubs are to follow this policy.

This policy is consistent with the Ohio South Youth Soccer Association policy on Lightning which should also be reviewed and followed in all games involving OSYSA / US Youth Soccer games.

Lightning Safety Standards

Soccer fields are a dangerous place to be during a lightning storm. When lightning is seen or thunder is heard, or when dark threatening clouds are observed, quickly suspend the game and/or practice and move to a safe location. Understand that:

- All thunderstorms produce lightning and are dangerous.
-
- Lightning often strikes as far as 10 miles away from any rainfall.
- You are in danger from lightning if you can hear thunder.
- You are in danger if you can see lightning.
- Look for dark cloud bases and increasing wind.
- Blue Skies and Lightning. Lightning can travel sideways for up to 10 miles and strike when skies are clear / blue.

Everyone should understand that Lightning injuries can lead to permanent disabilities or death.

Game Suspension Requirements

The safety of the player (as well as referees, coaches and spectators) is paramount. In any of the circumstances outlined below the referee is to immediately suspend the game (immediately meets when anyone of the following 3 items listed below occur – don't try to reach half time or end of game)

1. Listen for the sound of thunder. If you hear thunder, suspend the game and clear the field and have everyone immediately go to a safe shelter.
2. Watch for lightning. If you see lightning – suspend the game and clear the field and have everyone immediately go to a safe shelter.
3. If you see or hear a thunderstorm coming or your hair stands on end, immediately suspend your game and immediately go to a safe shelter. Do not wait until it rains.

If the game official does not immediately suspend the game when any one of the points above occur, the head coach from each team can agree that one of the three measurement points have occurred and they are to withdraw their teams from the field. If this action is taken both coaches are to send a written report to the GCSL Referee Coordinator outlining the circumstances, the facts concerning the weather conditions at that time, the fact that the two coaches were in agreement and the name of the Officials at the game.

If Official and one of the coaches do not reach the conclusion to suspend the game and anyone of the three points above occurred, the coach that supported the suspension of the game is to send a written report to the GCSL Referee Coordinator outlining the facts and the names of the officials.

Everyone is to immediately move to a safe location. No one should stand in water or on wet field(s) as water is a good conductor of electricity. The safest locations are in cars (not convertibles) or buildings (not tents). Do not seek cover under trees as lightning can strike tall objects.

Do not retake the field or re-start the game until all of the lightning and thunder has left the area. This means that you have not seen any lightning or heard thunder for 30 minutes.