

## **WHEN FIELD CONDITIONS ARE QUESTIONABLE**

### **Procedure for Field Closing**

The decision as to whether fields are playable or unplayable rests with the Facility Superintendent. In the event of fields being deemed unplayable the Facility Superintendent will have first and final say in all field/facility closures. Should Facility Superintendent be unavailable Assistant Facility Superintendent's or Facility Staff shall carry that authority. If Superintendent or Staff is unavailable CDC named authority will assume responsibility here said.

In the event that CDC is scheduled to use any CCS facility during a time of questionable field conditions it is up to the General Commissioner/General Manager to adhere to the recommendation of that locations' Athletic Director. This listing is: Jimmy Inskeep...CHS, John Corcoran...Clay Middle, Darren Monke...Carmel Middle and Randy Hartog Creekside Middle.

Information about field conditions is available either on the CDC website or by calling into our weather lines.

## **WEATHER WHEN FIELD CONDITIONS ARE GOOD:**

### **LIGHTNING**

The decision about how to proceed under this policy at each site rests with the General Commissioner, Grade Level Commissioner or Head Official (if applicable), or their designated representative. Education is the single most important means to achieve lightning safety. A lightning safety program will be implemented at each facility as follows:

Commissioners and Coaches are responsible for monitoring the weather for Thunderstorm Watches and WARNINGS.

Suspension and resumption of athletic activities should be planned in advance. Understanding of SAFE shelters is essential. SAFE evacuation areas include:

- a. Full enclosed metal vehicles with windows up.
- b. Substantial buildings.
- c. The low ground. Seek cover in clumps of bushes.
- d. Children should proceed to vehicles with parents if possible.

UNSAFE SHELTER AREAS include all outdoor metal objects like flag poles, fences and gates, high mast light poles, metal bleachers, golf carts, machinery, etc. AVOID lone trees. AVOID water. AVOID open fields. AVOID the high ground. AVOID metal/fenced in dugouts.

Lightning's distance from you is easy to calculate: If you hear thunder, it and the associated lightning is about 6-8 miles away. Flash-to-bang: Count the seconds from the time the lightning is sighted to the time that thunder is heard. Divide this number by five to figure out how far away the lightning is in miles. Ex. If there is 30 seconds between the flash of lightning and hearing the thunder, the lightning is approximately 6 miles away. A good lightning safety motto is: "If you can see it (lightning) flee it; if you can hear it (thunder) clear it."

Other considerations:

- "Heat Lightning" is nevertheless lightning and evacuation should be done accordingly.
- Blue sky and no rain are not protection from lightning. Lightning can strike as far as 10 miles away from rain. It does not have to be raining for a lightning strike.
- Avoid using landline telephones except in emergencies. A cell phone is a safe alternative.
- Avoid using sinks or showers in a safe facility, the water and plumbing can be conductors of electricity.
- If you are caught out in an open field when lightning is present the best approach is not be the tallest object on the field. You should crouch down, DO NOT LAY FLAT (lightning current often enters through the ground), onto the balls of your feet. Always try to minimize your body's surface area and minimize contact with the ground.

**WAIT A MINIMUM OF 30 MINUTES FROM THE LAST OBSERVED LIGHTNING OR THUNDER BEFORE RESUMING ACTIVITIES.**

Note: People who have been struck by lightning do *not* carry an electrical charge and are safe to handle. Apply first aid immediately if you are qualified to do so. Get emergency help immediately.

## **SEVERE WEATHER**

### **Watches:**

**Tornado Watch:** Conditions are favorable for the development of tornadoes in and close to the watch area.

**Sever Thunderstorm Watch:** Development of severe thunderstorms in and close to the watch area.

Commissioners and Coaches should be alert for the possibility of severe weather and have a plan of action in case a storm threatens.

### **WARNINGS:**

**TORNADO WARNING:** Tornado is indicated by radar or sighted by storm spotters.

**SEVERE THUNDERSTROM WARNING:** Issued when a thunderstorm produces hail  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch or larger in diameter and/or winds which equal or exceed 58 mph.

WARNING issued by the National Weather Service, this means that a tornado or severe thunderstorm has been detected by radar or observed by trained storm spotters or public officials.

Commissioners and Coaches should immediately clear the fields and have spectators, players, and officials move to the parking lot or point of safety depending on conditions. **No outdoor games or practices will begin with a "STORM WARNING" in effect.**

## **TORNADO SIRENS**

In the event tornado sirens are sounded, seek immediate shelter. If no shelter is available leave the facility immediately. All play will be suspended.

## **Winter Conditions**

In the event of hazardous winter weather the CDC will abide by any Carmel/Clay School Corporation (CCS) directions. Meaning if CCS postpones/cancels daytime/evening events CDC will also cancel/postpone CDC events in that time frame. You can find these decisions by either calling the CDC main office, postings on local television stations or by contacting the CCS. The CDC will send out notices of postponements/cancellations via email to all winter sport participants as soon as CCS makes such decisions.