

# SEVERE WEATHER PROCEDURES

Throughout the summer electrical storms, severe thunderstorms, tornado watches and warnings will occur. Whenever threatening weather enters western and central Iowa, the WeatherOps system will be turned on/monitored and these procedures should be followed for inclement weather conditions.

## LIGHTNING STORMS AND SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS

- A. Whenever lightning is sighted by any staff member or detected within the 12 mile radius by the WeatherOps system, the PRSC Outdoor Warning System will sound resulting in the playing platforms and area surrounding platforms being cleared of all patrons in the area. Spectators and participants will be directed to go to their vehicles.
- B. When the storm passes and lightning was last seen/detected 30 minutes after the last strike, patrons will be given the “all clear” notification via the PRSC Outdoor Warning System.
- C. If storms are of some length, games may be cancelled with the permission of the Prairie Ridge Sports Complex Supervisor.
- D. Whenever severe thunderstorm weather alerts are issued for Polk County and neighboring counties to the west and southwest of Polk County there is a step of procedures that need to be followed.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> – Staff contact “officer of the day” or “tournament coordinator” for each sport group. Make officers and coordinators aware of possible approaching weather and approximate time of arrival.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> – Staff contact each concession stand. Make aware of possible approaching weather and approximate time of arrival.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> – Officers and coordinators make coaches and public aware of possible approaching weather and approximate time of arrival.

## TORNADO WATCH OR WARNING

- A. A tornado watch indicates that weather conditions are favorable for a tornado. The WeatherOps system should be turned on and the Prairie Ridge Sports Complex staff, tournament coordinators and “officers of the day” should watch the sky for severe weather moving into the area.
- B. During tornado watch, the playing platforms remain open.
- C. If weather becomes severe or a tornado is sighted, the Civil Defense siren will sound. Evacuate all “willing” patrons and staff to the Prairie Ridge Middle School gymnasium (entering through the north side of the building) and direct everyone to interior hallways.

Reviewed March 2019