



# Flag Football Weather Policy

Approved 01.08.26

## 1. Overview

The purpose of the weather policy is first safety of players, coaches, officials, and families – anyone out on the fields. Secondarily, the policy attempts to keep the “fun” in playing. Please keep in mind that we offer recreational programs for PreK through 12th grade. Furthermore, severe weather in central Indiana is often unpredictable, and on occasion last-minute decisions must be made in the interest of safety. Accordingly, when weather conditions are uncertain, families are encouraged to keep an eye out for updates on the Game Changer app.

## 2. Chain of Communication

1.1. The AYS Director holds primary responsibility for weather-related cancellations.

1.2. The following lists the standard chain of communication for AYS:

*AYS Director ↔ League Commissioner ↔ League Coordinators ↔ Coaches ↔ Families*

1.3. The AYS Director will make the decision regarding postponement or cancellation and communicate this through the standard chain of communication.

1.4. If anyone in the standard chain of communication has a serious concern regarding safety and the timeliness of a safety-related decision, it is encouraged to immediately share this concern with the next higher person in the chain.

1.5. The GameChanger app should be used to notify families of weather-related cancellations. In the interest of assurance that communication is received, email and texting may also be used.

## 3. Severe Weather

3.1. Conditions considered “severe weather” include but are not limited to:

- 3.1.1. Lightning
- 3.1.2. Heavy Rain
- 3.1.3. Extreme Heat



- 3.1.4. Extreme Cold
- 3.1.5. Snow and/or Ice Resulting in Unsafe Travel Conditions
- 3.1.6. Air Quality

#### 4. Rain

- 4.1. If light rain is forecasted or occurring during a practice or game, then the event will continue as scheduled.
- 4.2. If during practice the rain becomes heavy or it is taking the "fun" out of playing (e.g., due to cold temperatures), then the coach is permitted to cancel practice at his/her discretion.
- 4.3. If during a game the rain becomes heavy or it is taking the "fun" out of playing (e.g., due to cold weather or deteriorating field conditions), both coaches must discuss and then agree whether to end the game.

#### 5. Lightning

- 5.1. An outdoor event is immediately on a 30-minute delay when any of the following occurs:
  - 5.1.1. Lightning is spotted
  - 5.1.2. Thunder is heard
  - 5.1.3. Lightning is noted using a weather app within 10 miles of current location
- 5.2. At the beginning of the 30-minute delay, all playing fields MUST BE EVACUATED immediately. All players, coaches and spectators must go to a car or indoor facility. They may not remain on the field, bleachers, dugouts, etc. **For safety reasons, this is a requirement, not a suggestion.**
- 5.3. Play will resume 30 minutes after the last lightning strike or when the lightning has moved out of the 10-mile range. If lightning is spotted or thunder is heard during the 30-minute delay, the 30-minute clock starts over.
- 5.4. *Generally, if lightning is spotted during practice, a coach will cancel practice. By the time the 30 min. is up, the practice will likely be over anyways. If lightning is spotted during a game, we generally wait one 30 min. period. If lightning is spotted during that 30 min. period, most often the game will be cancelled. Delaying more than 30 min will likely have too much of an impact on the start time of remaining games on that field.*