

# ILLINOIS WOMEN'S GOLF ASSOCIATION

## IWGA LIGHTNING POLICY

Lightning is responsible for more deaths annually than tornados and hurricanes and can strike anyone who is outside and within its reach.

Golfers are at risk for lightning injuries due to the length of time they spend outside, the lack of nearby protection, and an unwillingness to seek shelter promptly. The dangers from lightning are serious enough that the Rules of Golf allow a player to suspend play without penalty if they feel they are in danger from lightning.

The IWGA recognizes the seriousness of lightning dangers for players, spectators, volunteers and board members and will take measures to protect all during a storm situation.

The IWGA will utilize the following methods for monitoring storm conditions and lightning dangers:

- A host club's lightning detection system if available
- A nearby (within hearing range) facility's lightning detection system if available
- Weather radar and National Weather Service announcements
- Weather applications that record lightning strikes and distances
- Eyes and ears of board members, staff, and players

### ***Suspension of Play:***

If lightning is determined to be in the area, or if a lightning or other dangerous storm is approaching the golf course, play will be suspended and players asked to seek shelter. Every attempt will be made to make this determination in time so that players can return to the clubhouse. If the danger arrives too suddenly, players should seek shelter at the nearest available site.

The method of notification to players of a suspension of play for a dangerous condition shall be by a single blast of an air horn, or a single continuous sounding of a horn from a lightning detection system.

**PLAYERS MUST IMMEDIATELY STOP PLAY AND SEEK SHELTER.** Players may mark their ball or just leave it where it lies and evacuate. **A player who makes another stroke following the suspension signal is subject to disqualification.**

**Players MAY NOT PRACTICE during a suspension of play for dangerous conditions.**

### ***Resumption of Play:***

If the host club has a lightning detection system and conditions appear clear, the IWGA will resume play in accordance with the signal from that system.

If there is no lightning detection system in place, play will resume when 30 minutes have passed without thunder being heard, lightning being seen, and lightning detection apps being clear of strikes within 10 miles. This policy is in accordance with the recommendation from the National Weather Service and is similar in policy to that of the IHSA and the AJGA.

Players will be notified of the intention to resume play and will be repositioned on the course prior to the resumption signal.

If a player marked her ball when play was suspended, it must merely be replaced. If a player did not mark her ball and the ball has moved or cannot be found, the player must estimate the position of the ball before the suspension and place the original ball or another ball on that spot.

The resumption of play signal shall be two short blasts of an air horn. **Players who resume play prior to the resumption signal are subject to disqualification.**