

## Community School of Davidson Athletics

### Lightning Safety Policy

**Chain of Command** - In the event of severe weather that includes lightning or the potential for lightning, this policy shall be enforced by the Community School of Davidson's (CSD) licensed athletic trainer, school administrators, and then the individual team coach (in the event that neither of the first two individuals are present). During home competitions, the NCHSAA officials will issue their own regulations in the event of severe weather, and their official regulations should be followed unless they contradict this lightning safety policy. It is the job of the athletic trainer, school administrators, and team coaches to enforce the minimum standards described below.

**Weather Watching** - The athletic trainer is the primary weather watcher, charged with monitoring current and developing weather conditions for the risk of severe weather. The means of monitoring weather conditions include: visual monitoring, use of weather apps and local forecasting for potential weather conditions. In the event that the athletic trainer is not present, the weather watching duties fall to a present school administrator and/or the team head coach. **Signs of a developing thunderstorm include: high winds, darkening clouds, and the presence of any lightning or thunder.**

**Lightning Action Plan** - Prevention involves intently monitoring current and developing weather conditions to determine the risk for severe weather conditions. When severe storm watches and warnings are issued by the National Weather Service, extreme caution should be taken for the safety of athletes, coaches, and spectators. If it is determined that lightning is within 10 miles of the participation venue, coaches, athletes, and spectators should seek safe shelter immediately. When thunder is heard or lightning is seen the edge of the storm is close enough to strike your location. Below, both safe and unsafe locations will be described.

#### Safe Locations:

- A fully-enclosed, substantial building with wiring and plumbing where people live and/or work
- A fully-enclosed vehicle

#### Unsafe Locations:

- Under trees or other tall structures
- Under non-enclosed shelters/building

**Criteria for Postponement and Resumption of Activities** - All teams should be following the above mentioned lightning action plan. In the event that the lightning reaches **10 miles** participants and coaches should seek shelter in an above-mentioned safe location. During competitions that CSD is hosting, it is the school's obligation to warn spectators of imminent danger from severe weather and advise them to seek shelter. Once play has been suspended due to lightning in the area, participation must not be resumed until **30 minutes from the last sound (thunder) or observation of lightning**. Everyone should remain in an approved safe location while activities are suspended. Any subsequent thunder or lightning after the 30 min suspension will restart the clock. **Hearing thunder or seeing lightning takes precedence over any information on an app or weather report.**

**Care of Lightning Strike Victims** - In the event that anyone is struck by lightning, the team's venue specific emergency action plan should be followed. In summary, CPR should be initiated as soon as **safely** possible. A lightning strike victim may be moved to an approved safe location to allow for early CPR. Advanced medical care should be summoned immediately by dialing 9-1-1.