
Tournament Severe Weather Policy

Lightning and/or Thunder

- When lightning is seen, the fields will be cleared. All games are postponed until 30 minutes after the last lightning strike is detected and it has been determined safe to return to the fields.
- No place outside is safe near thunderstorms
- Use solid enclosed substantial constructed buildings if possible. A vehicle with a solid roof and metal sides is a reasonable second choice.
- Avoid being at higher elevations, wide---open areas, or near trees.

Other Types of Severe Weather

- Severe storms or tornados: Obey local rules and heed warnings (meaning that a severe storm or tornado has been sighted). Clear the field immediately and seek proper shelter.
- If we have hail, the game must be stopped. Clear the field and seek proper shelter.

Communication for Severe Weather

- Alarm will sound when lightning is within 13 miles (This is a solid tone siren; beacon lights will turn on)
- If the park experiences technical difficulties with the notification system, air horns will be used in a backup situation.
- There will be a 30-minute delay from the last lightning strike before the all clear sounds (This is a pulsing high/low tone; beacon lights will turn off)
- Weather updates will be posted on the official tournament website and social media pages.
- The tournament director will update the manager and coach via GOTSOCER text message.
- Tournament Director, Referee Assignor and Grand Park Officials will determine when to halt or start proceedings.
- When severe weather is a possible threat, use local radar for updated information.

Weather Monitoring

- Onsite Radar
- Onsite Lightning Detection
- Onsite PA alert system

Summary

If there is a possibility of severe weather, the tournament director, referee assignor, referee staff, tournament staff and Grand Park officials will discuss these guidelines in their pre-event meetings. This is to ensure that all officials have a clear understanding of their responsibilities and duties. Referees should clearly identify what assistance they expect in detecting and bringing to their immediate attention any dangerous weather conditions that may not be directly visible to them. If such conditions develop only after the game has begun, the referee should stop the game and review matters with the assistant referees to ensure player safety.