

Steamers FC Lightning Policy Chain of Command / Responsibility for Removing Athletes

The responsibility for removing athletes from the practice/game area in a timely manner lies with the head coach of the Steamers FC team(s). If the head coach is not present, an assistant coach will assume responsibility.

During game days, a Staff Member or Board Member has ultimate responsibility for clearing the fields.

Criteria For Evacuation of the Practice/Game Area

The Steamers FC policy will be as follows:

The Steamers FC Coach or Staff Member will inform the visiting team of Steamers FC's policy with regards to lightning during pre-game warm-ups if weather conditions warrant.

The Steamers FC Staff member's will monitor the lightning detector, will watch for lightning and listen for thunder, and will be responsible for determining when the fields are to be cleared.

When the 8-20 mile alarm indicator is illuminated on the lightning detector, the Steamers FC Staff member will stand ready to clear the fields.

When the 3-8 mile alarm indicator is illuminated on the lightning detector, the Steamers FC Staff member will suspend all games/practices. Everyone must evacuate to their cars in the Parking Lot.

If unable to reach safe shelter, persons should stay away from the tallest trees or objects (i.e. light poles, flag poles, etc.), metal objects (i.e. fences, bleachers, etc.), individual trees, standing pools of water, and open fields. Persons should avoid being the highest object in an open field.

In situations where thunder and/or lightning may or may not be present, yet someone feels his/her hair stand on end and skin tingle, LIGHTNING IS IMMINENT! Therefore, all persons should assume the "lightning-safe" position as described above.

A cellular and/or portable remote phone is a safe alternative to land-line phones, if the person and the antenna are located within a safe structure or location, and if all other precautions are followed.

All individuals should have the right to leave a site or activity, without fear of repercussion or penalty, in order to seek a safe structure or location if they feel that they are in danger from impending lightning activity.

Criteria For Safe Return to the Practice/Game Area

Personnel should not return to the practice/game area until twenty minutes have passed since the last lightning flash or the lightning detector indicates that lightning is greater than 20 miles away.

Each time lightning is observed and/or thunder is heard, the "20-minute clock" is to be reset.

Blue skies in the local area and/or a lack of rainfall are not adequate reasons to breach the 20-minute return-to-play rule. Lightning can strike up to ten (10) miles away from the rain shaft of a storm.