

# Caney Recreation Weather & Lightning Policy

## Purpose

The safety of participants, officials, and spectators is the highest priority for Caney Recreation. This policy establishes clear procedures for monitoring, suspending, and resuming athletic events during lightning or other severe weather conditions, in accordance with the Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) Lightning Safety Guidelines.

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## 1. Monitoring Weather Conditions

- The site supervisor, recreation director, or designee will actively monitor weather conditions during all outdoor events.
  - Weather will be monitored visually and audibly (lightning and thunder), and, when available, verified by a weather app or lightning detection device.
  - Any sign of approaching lightning, thunder, or severe weather should be treated as a potential threat.
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## 2. Criteria for Suspending Play

- **If thunder is heard or lightning is seen, play will be immediately suspended.**
  - The storm is considered close enough to pose a risk once thunder or lightning is detected—**do not wait for conditions to worsen.**
  - The site supervisor will signal suspension of play and direct all participants and spectators to safety.
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## 3. Shelter During Suspension

- **All players, coaches, officials, and spectators must immediately leave the field, stands, and outdoor areas.**
- Everyone is to **return to their vehicles** and remain there until the event is cleared to resume.
- Locker rooms, dugouts, tents, and open-air shelters **are not safe** during a lightning event.
- Vehicles must remain closed, with windows rolled up, until the all-clear is given.

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#### 4. Waiting Period and Resumption of Play

- Once play has been suspended due to lightning or thunder, a **minimum of 30 minutes** must pass after the last observed lightning flash or sound of thunder before play may resume.
- If additional lightning or thunder occurs during the waiting period, the **30-minute clock resets**.
- The site supervisor, in coordination with officials and coaches, will determine when it is safe to return to play.

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#### 5. Communication During Delays

- The recreation director or site supervisor will keep teams and spectators informed throughout the delay.
- Announcements will be made by loudspeaker or personal communication to direct everyone to safety and provide updates.
- If conditions do not improve within a reasonable timeframe, the game or event may be **canceled or rescheduled** at the discretion of the recreation department.

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#### 6. Additional Safety Guidelines

- Avoid open fields, metal fences, bleachers, trees, and bodies of water during storms.
- Do not use plumbing or electrical appliances during severe weather.
- Each team's coach is responsible for ensuring all players are accounted for and safe once play is suspended.

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#### 7. Reference

This policy is based on the **Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) Lightning Safety Guidelines**, ensuring that Caney Recreation adheres to the same high standards of safety and risk management.