



Softball BC

Severe Weather Policy – Thunder & Lightning

(1.0) Introduction

Softball BC believes in fostering a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment for participants. When making decisions related to severe weather, the health and safety of participants shall be of the utmost concern. This document will detail procedures for responding to thunder and lightning events. Further information on lightning safety can be found at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/lightning/safety/preparedness-fact-sheet.html>

(2.0) Suspension of Play

Upon hearing thunder or seeing lightning the activity must be immediately suspended regardless of proximity to the thunder or lightning.

During games, the suspension of play is primarily an umpire responsibility. If thunder or lightning occurs and the umpires do not take immediate action, the coaches shall advise the umpires of what they have seen and request that the umpire suspend play. Should the umpire still fail to suspend play, both sets of coaches shall withdraw their team from the field and proceed with the steps detailed in section 3.0 of this document.

Play may be suspended in advance of thunder and lightning based on forecast, weather app data, or other factors.

Note: During the provincial championships, the decision to suspend play and alter the competition schedule shall be made by the UIC and Softball BC Board Representative.

(3.0) Moving Participants and Spectators to a Safe Location

Immediately upon the suspension of play, all participants and spectators shall be moved to a safe location. Safe locations include a fully enclosed building with wiring and plumbing. If such a location is not available, a metal roofed vehicle, with its windows rolled up is recommended. Remaining in a dugout is not considered safe.

(4.0) Resuming Activity

Participants and spectators must wait 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning or rumble of thunder before returning to the field and resuming the activity.