

7. WEATHER

- a. Under most circumstances, the only weather that will cause SCSA soccer to be cancelled is lightning and thunder.
- b. If coaches decide on their own to cancel soccer due to cold weather, rain, etc (especially in younger age groups), the teams may decide between them to cancel the game.
- c. If coaches cancel a game in U9 and older, for whatever reason, they must notify the Referee Coordinator at cubsrno1@hotmail.com so that the referee can be notified.
- d. If the weather or field conditions are such that SCSA finds it necessary to cancel soccer, notification will be sent out by email thru our system as well as the SCSA website, Swift Current Online, Twitter, Facebook, local radio, etc.
- e. Cancelled games will not be rescheduled by SCSA.
- f. **SSA Lightning Policy:**

15 Section Thirteen | Risk Management | POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

2.11 Lightning Policy

2.11.1 In games, the referee has the authority over delaying or restarting a match due to weather. Waiting to stop play or not waiting to start or re-start play may result in a serious injury or loss of life. Referees are expected to act responsibly when dealing with such events during games they are controlling.

2.11.2 If you can hear thunder, you can get hit by lightning. As soon as you hear thunder, quickly get to a safe location. More people are struck before and after a thunderstorm than during one. Stay inside for 30 minutes after the last rumble of thunder.

2.11.3 The '30/30 Rule' or 'Flash to Bang' methods are no longer recommended by Environment Canada and are not to be used by referees, team personnel, or participants.

2.11.4 To plan for a safe day, check the weather forecast first. If thunderstorms are forecast, avoid being outdoors at that time or make an alternate plan. Identify safe places and determine how long it will take you to reach them.

2.11.5 Be aware of how close lightning is occurring. Thunder always accompanies lightning, even though its audible range can be diminished due to background noise in the immediate environment and its distance from the observer.

2.11.6 When larger groups are involved, the time needed to properly evacuate an area increases. As time requirements change, the distance at which lightning is noted and considered a threat to move into the area must be increased.

2.11.7 Know where the closest "safe structure or location" is to the field or playing area and know how long it takes to get to that safe structure or location.

- a) A safe location is a fully enclosed building with wiring and plumbing. Sheds, picnic shelters, tents or covered porches do NOT protect you from lightning.
- b) Avoid using shower facilities for safe shelter and do not use the showers or plumbing facilities during a thunderstorm.
- c) In the absence of a sturdy, frequently inhabited building, a vehicle with a hard metal roof (not a convertible or golf cart) and rolled-up windows can provide a measure of safety. A vehicle is certainly better than remaining outdoors. It is not the rubber tires that make a vehicle a safe shelter, but the hard metal roof which dissipates the lightning strike around the vehicle. Do not touch the sides of any vehicle!
- d) If no safe structure or location is within a reasonable distance, find a thick grove of small trees surrounded by taller trees or a dry ditch. Assume a crouched position on the ground with only the balls of the feet touching the ground, wrap your arms around your knees and lower your head. Minimize contact with the ground because lightning current often enters a victim through the ground rather than by a direct overhead strike. Minimize your body's surface area and the ground! Do not lie flat!
- e) If unable to reach safe shelter, stay away from the tallest trees or objects such as light poles or flag poles), metal objects (such as fences or bleachers), individual trees, standing pools of water, and open fields. Avoid being the highest object in a field. Do not take shelter under a single, tall tree.
- f) Do not handle electrical equipment, telephones or plumbing. These are all electrical conductors. Using a computer or wired video game system, taking a bath or touching a metal window frame all put you at risk of being struck by lightning. Use battery operated appliances only.

2.11.8 First aid for lightning victims:

- a) Prompt, aggressive CPR has been highly effective for the survival of victims of lightning strikes.
- b) Lightning victims do not carry an electrical charge and can be safely handled.
- c) Call for help. Victims may be suffering from burns or shock and should receive medical attention immediately. Call 9-1-1 or your local ambulance service.

- d) Give first aid. If breathing has stopped, administer cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR). Use an automatic external defibrillator if one is available.