

With the Spring Sport Season underway, please keep in mind the following information regarding the NYSPHSAA Thunder/Lightning rule. As all NYSPHSAA rules this applies to practices, scrimmages and contests.

### **Thunderstorm Reminder**

- Someone should be designated to monitor the local forecast.
- Consider using a lightning detector and/or view weather radar prior to and throughout the event.
- Use a PA announcer to inform spectators of the impending storm, when to evacuate and where the sheltering areas are located. Try to separate teams and spectators in sheltering areas if possible. All event workers should move to the sheltering area and monitor activity.
- If thunderstorms are expected prior to the contest, speak with officials and the visiting team coach to brief them on the plan in the event the contest must be stopped due to thunder or lightning.
- The NFHS/NYSPHSAA policy calls for play to be suspended when lightning is seen or thunder heard. Play is suspended for 30 minutes. If thunder or lightning occurs again during this 30 minute period, another 30 minutes must start. Depending on the duration of the game suspension, the officials, coaches and athletic administrator may decide to reschedule the contest.
- Dugouts are **NOT** safe shelters during the storm. Do not permit people to stand under or near a tree and have all stay away from poles antennas and towers. People should evacuate the bleachers.
- Be sure to identify sheltering for off-campus facilities that are used for contests or practices. If a structure is not available a bus or car can act as a shelter but only if there is no threat of a tornado.

### **Glossary of Weather Related Terminology**

- Watches –
  - A watch is used when the risk of hazardous weather has increased. But, its occurrence, location and timing is uncertain.
- Advisories –
  - An advisory is a special weather condition that is less serious than a warning. There are events that may cause significant inconvenience if caution is not exercised.
- Warnings –
  - A warning is issued when hazardous weather event is occurring. Is imminent or has a very high probability of occurring.

### **Decision to play or resume contest?**

- Always Consider Safety First
- NFHS/NYSPHSAA Lightning Rule – 30-30 Rule
- Road Conditions/Travel
  - Team
  - Spectators
  - Young (inexperienced drivers)
- Is the Facility Playable
  - How did facility respond to hazard?
- Significance of Game
- Reschedule Options