Lightning & Weather Delay Policy

1. Lightning Alert & Evacuation

When lightning is detected in the area, play is immediately suspended. The following evacuation rules apply to ALL persons on or near the fields:

- ALL players, coaches, spectators, and team personnel must immediately evacuate to their vehicles.
- NO one should proceed to the concession stands or any structure other than personal vehicles.
- Only designated field staff and referees are permitted to remain at the facility command area (concession building).
- All persons must remain in their vehicles until an official all-clear is issued by league staff.

2. Lightning Delay Timer Protocol

A 30-minute countdown timer begins upon the last detected lightning strike or thunder. The timer resets with every subsequent strike. The all-clear will not be issued until 30 consecutive minutes have elapsed with no observed lightning activity.

- Timer start: Begins at the moment of the last detected strike.
- Timer reset: Any subsequent lightning strike or thunder resets the full 30-minute clock.
- All-clear: Issued by league staff only after 30 uninterrupted minutes with no detected activity.

3. Schedule Impact & the 45-Minute Threshold

Completing scheduled games is a priority; however, protecting games later in the day is equally important due to field availability and daylight constraints. The following rules govern how delays affect game play and scheduling decisions:

- Delays of 45 minutes or less: Games will resume once the all-clear is issued, provided sufficient time remains within the scheduled field window.
- Delays exceeding 45 minutes: League staff will evaluate whether resuming the suspended game will jeopardize subsequent games due to field or daylight constraints. In such cases, the suspended game may be declared complete (if criteria in Section 4 are met) or rescheduled.
- League staff have final authority over all resumption and scheduling decisions. Their determination is based on available field windows, remaining daylight, and game completion status.

4. Game Completion Standards

The following standards determine whether a suspended game is considered an official, completed result or must be rescheduled:

- **Official result — First half completed: Any game in which the first half has been played to completion at the time of suspension is considered an official game. The score at the time of suspension stands as the final result.**
- **Official result — Second half kick-off taken: Any game in which a second half kick-off has occurred is considered a completed game played and will be scored as such.**
- Not yet official — First half not completed: If a lightning delay occurs before the first half is completed, the game is not considered official and will be rescheduled.

5. Rescheduled Games

Games that do not meet the completion standards above and cannot be resumed on the same day will be rescheduled under the following terms:

- Rescheduled games are played as new, full-length games — no score or game time carries over from the suspended match.
- Rescheduling dates and times will be communicated by league staff as soon as field availability is confirmed.
- Teams will be notified via the standard league communication channels.

Quick Reference Summary

Lightning detected: Evacuate immediately to vehicles. 30-minute timer begins.

Subsequent strike: 30-minute timer resets.

All-clear: Issued by league staff after 30 consecutive minutes with no activity.

Delay ≤ 45 minutes: Game resumes if field window permits.

Delay > 45 minutes: League staff evaluates — game may resume, be declared complete, or be rescheduled.

First half completed: Official result. Score at suspension stands.

Second half kick-off taken: Official result. Game scored as played.

First half not completed: Game not official — rescheduled as a new game.