

DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

LIGHTNING POLICIES & PROCEDURES

PURPOSE:

To ensure the safety of students, coaches, officials and spectators participating in athletics. The Academy of the Holy Cross is proactively implementing the following policies and procedures when lightning is present or there is the threat lightning may occur.

I. Chain of Command

- The Certified Athletic Trainer (ATC) has the authority to suspend, resume, and cancel activities due to lightning occurs at or near The Academy of the Holy Cross
 - During Practices, when there is a threat of lightning, coaches have the responsibility to monitor weather and remove their athletes from unsafe locations.
 - During Games, it is the responsibility of the ATC, in consultation with Officials, to suspend or cancel activities due to lightning.

II. Weather Monitoring

- AHC along with the WCAC will be using **Weather Bug** as the official app to monitor oncoming lightning threats

III. Safe Locations

- The school building is the only approved lightning-safe building
 - The National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) defines an ideal safe location as "any fully enclosed, substantial building. Ideally, the building should have plumbing, electric wiring, and telephone service."
- Activities taking place on **Fields 1 & 2** should use **Entrance 1**
- **Field 3** should use **Entrance 4** (by the Athletic Training Room and Gym)
- **Fields 4-5** or the **Softball Diamond** should use the **Theatre Lobby Entrance (Entrance 5) OR Entrance 4** if the Theatre Lobby Entrance is locked

IV. Unsafe Locations/Tasks

- Any of the outdoor fields or sheds
- Use of a landline telephone is forbidden
- Use of any electronics plugged into an outlet is forbidden

V. Lightning Safety Strategies – Lightning Radius

- When lightning is within a **15 mile radius** safety procedures will begin to go into effect
 - Notify coaches and officials of lightning in the area)
- When lightning is within a **10 mile radius** the field must be cleared and everyone should be seeking shelter in accordance with the “Safe Locations” section above

VI. Suspending, Canceling, and Resuming Activities

- A **30-minute delay** will occur with each lightning strike until it has moved outside the 10 mile radius. Once lightning is outside the 10 miles radius play may resume, regardless of the time.
- It is up to the home team ATC, Athletic Director, and Coach to determine the length of delay before home game or competition is cancelled.
 - During **Championship Tournament’s** the designated sport Athletic Director will make the decision for continuation or discontinuation of the game. Or, weather policies may be predetermined through the event contract held with the neutral site facilities where the game is being played.