

SPMSA Lightning Policy

Clear the field if you can hear thunder.

Leave the field for shelter if you can see bolts of lightning.

Keep the field clear until you have at least 30 minutes with no thunder or visible lightning.

If you hear it, clear it. If you see it, flee it.

- a. When thunder is heard, or a cloud-to-ground lightning bolt is seen, the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play and take shelter immediately.
- b. Thirty-minute rule. Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or flash of lightning is witnessed prior to resuming play.
- c. Any subsequent thunder or lightning after the beginning of the 30 minute count, reset the clock and another 30 minute count should begin.

Recruit the cooperation and assistance of your coaches and parents in monitoring conditions. Parents in particular can usually pay closer attention to the weather than coaches and umpires. Get them to alert you to changing conditions. Discuss this at the pre-game with coaches and umpires.

Do not be persuaded to continue a game. Competitive people may not have the big picture in mind. They can argue for continued play, but be conservative - you have the final word. The SPMSA will fully support any decision you make that errs on the side of caution.

If you have to cancel a game, note the time, inning and score at suspension, and notify your league representative within the next 24 hours.