

# Lightning & Severe Weather Delay Protocol

EAGLE MOUNTAIN SOCCER ASSOCIATION

## 1. Purpose

The purpose of this protocol is to ensure the safety of all players, coaches, officials, staff, and spectators during lightning or other severe weather events.

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## 2. Authority & Responsibility

- The Referee has final authority to suspend play due to weather conditions.
  - EMSA President, & VP, / Field Marshall may recommend suspension based on weather monitoring.
  - Coaches and spectators must comply immediately with all weather-related decisions.
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## 3. Weather Monitoring

- Weather conditions shall be monitored before and during all matches.
  - Monitoring methods may include:
    - National Weather Service alerts
    - Weather apps with lightning detection
    - Visual observation of lightning or thunder
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## 4. Lightning Protocol (30–30 Rule)

### Suspension of Play

Play must be immediately suspended if:

- Lightning is seen and/or detected

No distance estimation is required. If you see it or hear it, stop playing.

## **Evacuation**

Upon suspension:

- All players, coaches, officials, and spectators must move to safe shelter immediately.
- Safe shelter includes:
  - Fully enclosed buildings with wiring and plumbing
  - Hard-topped vehicles with windows closed
- Unsafe shelter includes:
  - Open fields
  - Tents, canopies, dugouts
  - Trees, light poles, bleachers

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## **5. Delay & Restart Timing**

- A minimum 30-minute delay begins after the last observed lightning strike or thunder.
- If additional lightning or thunder occurs during the delay, the 30-minute clock resets.
- Play may only resume after the full 30 minutes have passed without additional lightning or thunder.

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## **6. Severe Weather (Non-Lightning)**

Play may also be suspended for:

- Heavy rain causing unsafe field conditions
- High winds
- Hail
- Extreme heat
- Any condition deemed unsafe by the referee

The referee and/or Field Marshal may inspect the field before resuming play.

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## **7. Match Completion & Termination**

If a match cannot be resumed:

- Matches suspended before halftime shall be deemed abandoned and, if the season schedule permits, rescheduled.
  - Matches suspended after halftime may be considered complete
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## **8. Warm-Up After Delay**

- If play resumes after a delay of 30 minutes or more, teams will not be allowed a warm-up session.
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## **9. Communication**

- The referee or Field Marshall shall communicate:
  - Suspension of play
  - Expected restart timing
  - Match termination decisions

- Coaches are responsible for informing players and spectators.
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## **10. Compliance**

- Failure to comply with weather evacuation procedures may result in:
    - Match termination
    - Disciplinary action per league rules
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## **11. Acknowledgment**

Participation in the league constitutes acknowledgment and acceptance of this Lightning & Severe Weather Delay Protocol.