

## LIGHTNING PLAN

In case of lightning everyone must evacuate the area to a safe location. The referee has the power to end the match at any time if he/she believes that play should not continue because it would be dangerous.

The referee and/or coaches can use the guidelines from USA Rugby to help make a determination.

The distance the lightning is from the match will determine when it must be called and factor in when a game can restart. To determine the distance, use the flash to bang method. This is determined by time between flash of lightning and bang of thunder (flash to bang).

- **Flash to Bang Method:** Begin counting on the lightning flash, and stop counting when the associated thunder is heard. Take that number and divide by 5. That is the number of miles away the lightning is.

- Example- Flash to bang is 25 seconds, divide by 5 = 5 miles away.

*When must a match, practice or other activity be stopped due to lightning? A match must be stopped if lightning is 6 miles or less away from the match location.*

- If the time between flash to bang is 30 seconds or less, the match must be stopped and everyone moved to a safe location until the lightning has passed and is 6 miles or more away.

### **If Time Allows for Match to Resume After Lightning:**

If a game, practice, or other activity is suspended or postponed due to lightning activity, before resuming, you must wait at least 30 minutes after the last lightning flash or sound of thunder. Each time lightning is seen or thunder is heard the 30-minute clock must be reset.

### **If Time Does NOT Allow for Match to Resume:**

If at least 3/4th of the match has been played, match will be over and current score at that time will stand.

- 3/4th of 70 min match = at least 52 min & 30 sec played
- 3/4th of 60 min match = at least 45 min played
- 3/4th of 40 min match = at least 30 min played

If at least 3/4th of a match has NOT been played, match be rescheduled and will restart with remaining time on clock on the make-up day.

*Note: Coaches may both decide to end the match and not reschedule, keeping the current score. Both coaches must agree to this and the decision MUST be decided in front of the referee, as a witness.*

Example: Match ended with 15 minutes played. Match will re-start on scheduled makeup day with 15 minutes already played and same score carried over.