



City of Alabaster Parks and Recreation

Lightning Policy

August 23, 2021

Guidelines for Games and Practices:

1. When thunder is heard or a flash of lightning is witnessed, the leading edge of the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning.
 - a. Suspend play for at least 30 minutes and vacate the outdoor activity to the previously designated safer location IMMEDIATELY.
2. 30-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.
3. Any subsequent thunder or flash of lightning after the beginning of the 30-minute count will reset the clock and another 30-minute count should begin.
4. When lightning-detection devices or mobile phone apps are available, this technology could be used to assist in deciding to suspend play if a lightning strike is noted to be within 8 miles of the event location. However, you should never depend on the reliability of these devices and, thus, hearing thunder or seeing a flash of lightning should always take precedence over information from a mobile app or lightning-detection device.

IMPORTANT: Common sense is the best rule of thumb when dealing with lightning. The default decision should err on the side of being conservative – lightning is not something that should be taken lightly. A game or practice delay is a minor inconvenience compared to risking lives.