

HVABSA LIGHTNING SAFETY POLICY / PROCEDURE

In the event of lightning, guidelines by the NCAA and NSSL (National Severe Storms Laboratory) will be followed during games, practices, or any other HVABSA sanctioned event. The NCAA and NSSL, strongly recommend terminating activity when lightning is 6 miles away, as there is a 70% chance that the next cloud-to-ground strike will occur in a circular area with a 6-mile radius from the previous strike.

In accordance with the above recommendation, HVABSA will adhere to the following policy, in the event of lightning. Please note that HVABSA considers the safety of our children as the highest priority. HVABSA officials will render a decision based upon information gathered on the local weather conditions.

In the event of lightning, the following will take place:

When using the lightning detector apply the 3 to 8-mile "within-range" rule according to the unit's reading. If lightning is detected within the 3 to 8-mile range (or closer), all games will be delayed for 15 minutes; to allow HVABSA board officials time to assess the situation.

If after the 15-minute delay, any lightning strikes are detected within the 3 to 8-mile (or closer) range on the detector, all games will either be suspended or postponed, whichever applies. If at the end of 15 minutes, it is determined that the storm is moving away from the playing areas, and no strikes occur within the 3 to 8-mile (or closer) range, all games will resume.

During the 15 minutes delay/evaluation period, teams will be removed from the playing field and dugout area. Teams may proceed to the concession stand area to await the decision of a HVABSA board official. If any team chooses not to wait the required delay period (15 minutes), then the game will result in a forfeit by said team. If both teams decide not to wait the required time, the game will result in a double forfeit and will not be replayed.

If a game is called due to rain, weather or light failure it will either be suspended or postponed. If the game has completed 2 full innings before being called, it will be considered "Suspended". If the game has completed less than 2 full innings before being called, it will be considered "Postponed".

Suspended games will be re-scheduled and resume at the exact point when it was called. The home team is responsible for recording all aspects of play (e.g. game start time, time of delay, score, position of runners, player at bat, balls/strikes, outs, etc.)

Postponed games will be re-scheduled and be played in its entirety. This is in accordance with HVABSA Bylaws and Rules.