

GSAC Lighting Safety Protocol

1. Athletic Trainer, Athletic Administrator, and/or game officials shall make the decision as to when to remove individuals from the field in the case of a lightning emergency. In the absence of all of the above, coaches will be responsible to remove athletes from the field and adhere to the following protocol.
2. Athletic director will monitor local forecasts and weather warnings to check for signs for threatening weather and determine if an event needs to be postponed or cancelled.
3. Play will be suspended and all players, spectators, and athletics personnel will leave the field at the first sign of lightning.
4. Players and athletics personnel will seek a primary shelter consisting of a permanent structure with electrical/telephone wiring, and plumbing. In the event that a primary structure is unavailable, players and personnel will seek a fully enclosed vehicle with a metal roof and closed windows. Sheds or dugouts are NOT an option for appropriate shelter.
5. Players and athletics personnel are advised to avoid being in proximity to the highest point of an open field or on open water. Also, do not take shelter near trees, flagpoles, or light poles.
6. If caught in an open field, with no shelter nearby, assume the lightning safe position, crouched down with balls of feet in contact with the ground, feet together, arms wrapped around your knees, head lowered, and ears covered.
7. Schools must wait 30 minutes until after the last sight of lightning or sound of thunder, in order to resume activities.