Thunder/Lighting Safety Guidelines

Guidelines for the management of NJCAA Region XIX events affected by thunder and lightning are delineated below. These guidelines are derived from both the NCAA Sports Science Institute and the NATA Position Statement for Lightning Safety. The safety and well-being of student-athletes, college personnel and event spectators shall be the basis for all decision making.

Monitoring of Weather
Region XIX member colleges will utilize the WeatherBug mobile application to monitor weather for thunder/lightning. The host athletic trainer and/or host site administrator is responsible for monitoring weather conditions. The host athletic trainer and/or site administrator will keep game officials informed of all findings (if game related). The “alert ring” shall be defined as a 30-mile radius from the activity site. The “warning ring” shall be defined as an 8-mile radius from the activity site.

Safety Guidelines
- The host athletic trainer and/or site administrator will inform game officials to the presence of thunder/lightning inside the “alert ring”. Preparations for the potential suspension of an event should begin at this time.
- Once thunder/lightning enters the “warning ring”, activity shall cease and host colleges shall activate their emergency action plans for the activity site. These emergency actions plans, at a minimum, should include processes for evacuation of the activity site, identification of safe shelter locations, and the criteria for returning to the activity site.
- A return to the activity site shall not occur until 30 minutes have passed since the last sound of thunder/lightning strike inside the “warning ring”.
- Host colleges shall refer to individual sports codes should the need to permanently suspend/terminate a game arise.