

HAZARDOUS WEATHER GUIDELINES

The primary concern when signs of hazardous weather are present is the safety of participants and spectators. Have a safety plan for any type of hazardous weather that may occur. Practice and follow the plan. Know where people will go for safety and know how much time it will take for them to get there. Have specific guidelines for suspending the event so everyone has time to reach a place of safety before the threat becomes significant.

SUSPENSION OR POSTPONEMENT OF CONTESTS

I. Prior to the contest officials' assuming authority.

A. The home school's management shall determine whether a contest should be suspended or postponed due to severe weather.

1. In making the decision whether or not to suspend or postpone a contest the host management should first take into consideration the safety of the participants and spectators.

2. Playing surface conditions should be considered and what continued use may do to the surface.

3. If the decision is made by the host management to postpone the contest, administrators from both schools should mutually agree if, and when, to reschedule.

II. Once the contest officials' authority begins.

A. Refer to NFHS playing rules, or IHSA post-season rules, for the exact rules in each sport regarding contest officials' authority to suspend the contest.

III. Postponing the contest.

A. Wait a sufficient amount of time to see if the severe weather will subside.

B. Home management and/or contest officials shall decide whether to postpone or resume the contest.

C. Playing surface conditions should be considered when making this decision.

IV. If the contest resumes.

A. Adequate time should be given for contestants to warm up prior to competition resuming.

V. If the contest cannot be resumed after a severe weather delay.

A. Administrators from both schools need to come to an agreement. The contest may be considered complete with the existing score becoming the final score, or the contest may be postponed and continued from the point of interruption, at a time mutually agreed to by both schools.

LIGHTNING SAFETY

A. All thunderstorms produce lightning and can be dangerous.

B. When the time interval between seeing lightning and hearing the corresponding thunder is thirty (30) seconds, or less, outdoor activity should be stopped and everyone should be directed to shelter.

C. Do not resume activities until approximately 30 minutes have passed since the last thunder was heard.

SEVERE WEATHER CONDITIONS

A. **A severe weather watch** (flood, thunderstorm, tornado, etc.) is issued when conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop.

1. Host management should be prepared for an abrupt suspension of the contest and for informing all participants and spectators to move to a place of safety.

2. Consideration should be given to the length of time it will take to clear the contest area and for all participants and spectators to move to a place of safety.

B. **A severe weather warning** is issued when severe weather is imminent.

1. Host management should suspend the contest when there is a significant threat of severe weather and inform all participants and spectators to move to a place of safety.

2. Follow the safety plan that your school has developed.