

What to do if lightning predictors are activated! Revised August 2007

FBSA Baseball and Softball General rule #2 states:

The safety of the players will be prime consideration. At the direction of the umpires or League Directors, a game will be shortened due to weather or conditions potentially harmful to the players (i.e. insufficient light). Lightening (see full explanation of lightning prediction system in FBSA Operating Policies) in the vicinity will be grounds for shortening a game. The umpire will impose a 30 minute (maximum) game delay before canceling a game.

FBSA Operating Policy Section F, Item 1 States:

Lightning Prediction System – Operation and Policy

The City of Frisco has installed three lightning predictors in the following locations:

The Youth Center unit is located beyond the center field fence, north of the old flag pole.

The Shawnee unit is beyond the yellow field center field fence, next to the playground.

The Warren unit is located near the northwest corner of the west football field.

The Bacchus unit(s) are being installed during the fall of 2007.

The City will be testing the system on weekdays, once a week during the day when no one is playing. The sensors will be cleaned every thirty days.

System operation:

When a probability of lightning is detected the horn will sound continuously for fifteen seconds and the yellow light will begin flashing. At this time all fields will be cleared. The yellow light will continue to flash as long as a threat exists. When a threat is no longer detected, the “all clear” horn will sound three short blasts and the yellow light will go off. It is then safe to return to the fields and resume play.

Games (& practice) Policy:

As soon as the horn sounds and the yellow light goes on, all games will be immediately stopped. **Players, officials and spectators must leave the fields and seek shelter inside a building or vehicle for the duration of the threat (cars are strongly suggested as the space around the concession stand is very limited).** Should the umpires feel, using their best judgment, that a potential threat is present, they **HAVE** to authority to stop the games even before the alarm is triggered.

Since there is no way to determine how long the threat will last, the following rules will apply for all games, regardless on who stops them (alarm or umpire):

1. Any game not started (1st pitch thrown) will be delayed a maximum of 30 minutes.

Should the system determine that the threat is no longer in place and the “all clear signal” goes off within 30 minutes, the game can start. Beyond the 30 minute timeframe, the game will be considered cancelled and every effort will be made to reschedule it (Subject to time constraints and field availability).

2. Any game being played and stopped BEFORE it is an officially completed game (see “shortened game” in FBSA rules) will be delayed a maximum of 30 minutes. Should the system determine that the threat is no longer in place and the “all clear signal” goes off within 30 minutes, the game can re-start. Beyond the 30 minute timeframe, the game will be considered suspended and every effort will be made to reschedule it and re-start the game at the point at which it was suspended.

3. Any game being played and stopped AFTER it is an officially completed game (see “shortened game” in FBSA rules) will be considered valid and will NOT be rescheduled. The score/outcome will count and considered VALID for the standings. Any violation of these policies will result in harsh penalties imposed by the league and/or by the City of Frisco.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping put the safety of our youth first.