

## Justin Youth Sports Association- Lightning Policy

JYSA has adopted the following lightning policy for the safety of children, fans, coaches, officials and volunteers participating in JYSA activities. While no policy can give 100% assurance against a lightning strike, the following guidelines are meant to minimize the risk of participants being struck during JYSA activities.

### How lightning is detected...

All JYSA board members and coaches are required to download the WeatherBug app with lightning detecting notifications on their mobile device. The lightning application provides notifications if there are any lightning strikes within 10 miles of any JYSA game field location. All board members and coaches are responsible for ensuring that they have access to their device anytime inclement weather is forecasted. JYSA will have designated board members who are responsible for communicating any weather related game stoppages or postponements to JYSA coaches and officials.

In addition, all JYSA coaches and umpires are encouraged to monitor local weather reports and conditions prior to scheduled activities and to notify JYSA representatives if lightning is detected.

### What to do if lightning is detected....

Once a lightning strike is detected within 10 miles of a JYSA facility all practices and games should stop immediately and everyone should quickly move to a safe location such as their vehicles or inside the closest permanent shelter.

**Dugouts and concession stand awnings are not considered safe locations during a lightning storm.** There should be no attempt to complete an inning regardless of the game situation. Head coaches are responsible to ensure all of the players make it to safety and are encouraged to have a system in place to keep players and parents informed of game status.

Once lightning has been detected, all practices and games will immediately be postponed. Teams will not be allowed to resume play until there has been at least 30 consecutive minutes since the last detection of lightning within the 10 mile radius. If any lightning strike is detected within a 10 mile radius after the initial detection the 30 minute postponement period will restart. **Activity must never resume until at least 30 minutes has passed after the last detection of lightning.**

Once lightning has been detected and activities are postponed a designated JYSA board member will be responsible for making the decision to cancel or postpone the scheduled activities in the event of prolonged lightning activity or inclement weather. If more than half of the duration of the game (or 3 innings) has not been completed, the game will be rescheduled for another date. If more than half of the duration of the game (or 3 innings) has been completed, it will be considered a complete game and the score will be final with no reschedule needed. Any cancellations will be communicated through the league sports app in addition to head coaches. VP's of respective sports and interlock commissioners will make the final decision regarding make-up games.

Questions related to this policy should be directed to the JYSA board at [fieldops@jysa.info](mailto:fieldops@jysa.info).

**Each Board Member and Coach shall install the following free app for their mobile device to monitor weather and lightning strikes:**

[WeatherBug App](#) (available on IOS and Android)



**Please check the links below for more information related to lightning safety:**

[National Weather Service Lightning Safety Home Page](#)