Central New York Women’s Lacrosse Officials  
NYSPHSAA

THUNDER & LIGHTNING POLICY
SUSPENSION & RESUMPTION PROCEDURES

Review NYSPHSAA Lightning Policy (following page) & USL Rule Appendix G

If thunder is heard or lightning seen you must follow these guidelines for suspension and resumption of play. In general school administration will be supportive of your caution. If not, do not be dissuaded by coaches, site supervisors, or anyone else.

Officials are in charge of timing the suspension. Don’t assume that anyone else is keeping track of this time. Either note the time on your watch or start your timer at the last lightning seen or thunder heard. NYSPHSAA requires 30 minutes past this time before play is to be resumed.

If school administration has the most current knowledge of lightning/thunder, then start timing as of their last reported thunder/lightning. Reset the 30-minute suspension after each thunder/lightning. If you can access the clock, use the clock as a count down for allowing the players onto the field.

If there is a Site Supervisor, work with them to ensure correct application of the NYSPHAA Lightning policy. Provide each coach the procedure before they go off with their teams. Exchange cell phone numbers with coaches and Site Supervisors so that contact can be maintained.

As the game official, you have the right to suspend a game or declare the game complete if 80% (40 minutes) or more have been played. Opposing coaches may agree to consider game complete if less than 80% has been played. Before that decision is made, confer with coaches and Site Supervisor. Someone may have a method of checking incoming weather.

After players are allowed back onto field, allow teams up to 15-minutes warm-up time if coaches request it. Restart play following USL Rule 5, Section 24, Pg. 38 (FP to team with possession at spot of ball or Throw to two players closest to ball).
NYSPHSAA
THUNDER & LIGHTNING POLICY
(Effective 10/25/04)

(Revised October 20, 2008)

Applies to regular season through NYSPHSAA Finals:

1) Thunder and lightning necessitates that contests be suspended. The occurrence of thunder and/or lightning is not subject to interpretation or discussion - thunder is thunder, lightning is lightning.

   a) With your site administrator, set up a plan for shelter prior to the start of any contest.

2) When thunder is heard and/or when lightning is seen, the following procedures should be adhered to:

   a) Suspend play and direct participants to go to shelter, a building normally occupied by the public or if a building is unavailable, participants should go inside a vehicle with a solid metal top (e.g. bus, van, car).

   b) Do not permit people to stand under or near a tree; and have all stay away from poles, antennas, towers and underground watering systems.

   c) After thunder and/or lightning have left the area, wait 30 minutes after the last boom is heard or strike is seen before resuming play or competition.