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Severe Weather Policy – Thunder & Lightning

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(1.0) Introduction

Baseball BC believes in fostering a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment for participants. When making decisions related to severe weather, the health and safety of participants shall be of the upmost concern. This document will detail procedures for responding to thunder and lightning events.

Further information on lightning safety can be found at:
https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/lightning/safety/preparedness-fact-sheet.html

(2.0) Suspension of Play

Upon hearing thunder or seeing lightning the activity must be immediately suspended regardless of proximity to the thunder or lightning.

During games, the suspension of play is primarily an umpire responsibility. If thunder or lightning occur and the umpires do not take immediate action, the coaches shall advise the umpires of what they have seen and request that the umpire suspends play. Should the umpire still fail to suspend play, both sets of coaches shall withdrawal their team from the field and proceed with the steps detailed in section 3.0 of this document.

Play may be suspended in advance of thunder and lightning based on forecast, weather app data, or other factors.

When present onsite, all members of the Baseball BC Board of Directors, in addition to staff, have a responsibility to stop any sanctioned baseball activity (Baseball BC or member activities), if action is not taken by the coaches and/or umpires consistent with this policy.

(3.0) Moving Participants and Spectators to a Safe Location

Immediately upon the suspension of play, all participants and spectators shall be moved to a safe location. Safe locations include a fully enclosed building with wiring and plumbing. If a such a location is not available, a metal roofed vehicle, with its windows rolled up is recommended. Remaining in a dugout is not considered safe.

(4.0) Resuming Activity

Participants and spectators must wait 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning or rumble of thunder before returning to the field and resuming the activity.