



Lindale Soccer Association

Weather and Emergency Action Plan Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this Weather and Emergency Action Plan ("EAP") is to establish procedures for responding to weather-related, medical, and other emergencies that may occur during Lindale Soccer Association ("LSA") activities. This policy is intended to promote the safety of participants, coaches, referees, volunteers, spectators, and visitors by providing clear guidance for emergency response, activity suspension, evacuation, and return-to-play decisions.

Board Member on Duty

For purposes of this policy, "Board Member on Duty" refers to the Board Member designated by the Board of Directors to oversee operations and emergency decision-making during LSA activities. A Board Member on Duty is identified by wearing a brightly colored shirt displaying "Board Member." In the absence of a designated Board Member, the highest-ranking available Executive Officer shall assume this responsibility.

Incident Chain of Command

During an emergency, operational decisions may be made by the highest-ranking available Association representative until emergency responders assume command.

1. President
2. Director of Operations
3. Head Referee (with officiating matters)
4. Board Member on Duty
5. Event Coordinator
6. Head Coach (team-specific matters)

Good Faith Emergency Actions

Volunteers, coaches, referees, and Board of Directors acting in good faith to protect participants or spectators during an emergency shall be supported by the Association when acting within the scope of this policy.

Emergency Contacts

Address:

Faulkner Park
21206 Highway 69 North
Lindale, TX, 75771

- **Emergency: 911**
- Lindale Police's office non-emergency dispatch: 903-882-3313
- Smith County Sheriff's office non-emergency dispatch: 903-566-6600
- American Association of Poison Control: 800-222-1222



Field Playability

LSA shall maintain a centralized Field Status System as the official source for determining the playability of all fields and facilities at Faulkner Park. Field conditions shall be evaluated by a designated Member of the Board of Directors based on current weather conditions, field conditions, safety considerations, and forecasted weather.

LSA Field Status site: <https://lindale.soccer/fields>

The official field status shall be communicated through the LSA Field Status website and, when practical, through social media and other available communication methods. Coaches, referees, players, volunteers, and spectators are expected to rely on the official Field Status System for the most current information.

Field statuses are defined as follows:

OPEN – Fields are open and all scheduled activities may proceed as planned.

WATCH – Fields remain open; however, weather or field conditions are being monitored. Activities may be delayed, suspended, or canceled if conditions deteriorate.

LIGHTNING DELAY – All activities shall stop immediately due to lightning within the designated safety radius. Participants, coaches, referees, volunteers, and spectators shall seek shelter in accordance with this Emergency Action Plan until play is authorized to resume.

CLOSED – Fields are closed due to unsafe weather, field conditions, maintenance, or other safety concerns. No practices, games, or other activities are permitted until the status is changed to OPEN or WATCH.

A Board Member on Duty may suspend, delay, relocate, modify, or cancel any activity whenever field conditions or weather present an unreasonable risk to participants or may cause unnecessary damage to Association facilities.

Except in rapidly changing weather conditions, LSA will make every reasonable effort to publish field status updates according to the following schedule:

Weekday activities: By 4:00 PM whenever possible.

Saturday activities: By 7:00 AM whenever possible.

Sunday Adult League activities: By 1:00 PM whenever possible.

Conditions may change unexpectedly. LSA reserves the right to modify the field status at any time when participant safety or field preservation requires immediate action.

Lightning

LSA will utilize a Board-approved real-time lightning detection service (such as WeatherBug) to monitor lightning activity. The referee coordinator, Board Member on Duty, or other assigned individual(s) may also be called upon to assist in making others aware of an approaching lightning hazard.



If a lightning detection app is not available at Faulkner Park, Lindale Soccer Association will utilize the flash-to-bang method to determine the proximity of lightning. The designated Board Member on Duty on site will monitor the lightning using this method. To use this method, count the seconds from the time lightning is sighted to when the clap of thunder is heard. Divide the number of seconds by five (5) to obtain (in miles) the distance the lightning is occurring. Thus, a flash-to-bang finding of 40 seconds = a distance of 8 miles.

Lightning Strikes within 8-10 Miles

The following actions will take place.

1. An air horn will sound for 5 seconds.
2. Notification will also be provided through available communication methods, including social media and direct communication with referees and coaches, when practical.
3. The fields/playground will be cleared immediately.
4. Participants, game officials, coaches, and spectators will be relocated to their vehicles.
5. Games/practices will be delayed.

Lightning Strikes within 11-20 Miles

The head coaches and game officials will be notified of the approaching lightning.

Safe Shelter

A safe location is any substantial, frequently inhabited building. The building should have four solid walls, electrical, and plumbing, all of which aid in grounding a structure. The alternative choice for a safe location is a fully enclosed vehicle with a metal roof with the windows completely closed. It is important to not touch any part of the metal framework while inside the vehicle during ongoing thunderstorms.

Areas to Avoid

Shaded areas (tents, picnic areas, etc.); single tall trees; light or flag poles; water; metal bleachers; open fields, dugouts, fences, machinery

Lightning Safe Position

Crouch on the ground, weight on the balls of the feet, feet together, head lowered, and ears covered. Do not lie flat on the ground. You should also avoid proximity to other people (allow 15 feet).

Return to Athletic Activity

The decision to resume athletic practice or competition (after it has been suspended due to severe weather and/or lightning) will be made by a Board Member on Duty on site. Play shall not resume until at least 30 minutes have elapsed since the last lightning strike within an 8-mile radius, as confirmed by the lightning detection service or the flash-to-bang method. The air horn will be used to sound 3 short beeps to signal that it has been deemed safe to return to play.



Tornado

If a Tornado Warning has been issued or a tornado has been sighted, all activities shall cease immediately.

The following actions will take place when games are suspended:

1. An air horn will sound for 5 seconds.
2. Notification will also be provided through available communication methods, including social media and direct communication with referees and coaches, when practical.
3. The fields/playground will be cleared immediately.
4. Participants, game officials, coaches, and spectators will be relocated to their vehicles to leave, if safe, or to seek close, sturdy shelter.

Safe Shelter

A safe location is any substantial building with four solid walls; seek shelter in a small, windowless interior room or hallway. If strong winds and debris occur while driving to a safe shelter, pull over and park, keeping seat belt on. Put your head down below window level and cover your head with your hands or jacket/blanket. You may also find shelter in a low lying area or ditch.

Areas to Avoid

Areas with windows, large open rooms, small storage buildings/shed, bridges, and highway overpasses are not safe areas.

Return to Athletic Activity

The decision to resume athletic practice or competition will be made by a Board Member on Duty on site.

Medical Emergency

Emergency Equipment – An Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and limited first aid supplies are located in the concession stand. Additional first aid supplies may be available with coaches or Board Members.

1. Provide immediate care to the injured athlete, coach, or spectator. Do not move them unless they are in an unsafe area. The most medically trained individual available shall assume responsibility for providing care until EMS arrives.
2. Call 911 and activate the emergency medical system. Provide dispatch with your name, address, type of injury/illness, specific directions to location, and other requested or pertinent info.
3. Retrieve appropriate emergency equipment from concession stand.
4. Designate an individual to “flag down” EMS and direct them to the scene.
5. Control the scene and move bystanders away.

Concussion

Concussions do not always involve a loss of consciousness. ANY traumatic contact to the head or to another part of the body causing a whiplash effect should be considered as a mechanism of possible concussion injury. While headache is the most common symptom of concussion, all people will experience concussion differently. Therefore, any of the potential signs and symptoms of concussion



should be considered including: balance or memory problems, sluggishness, sensitivity to light/noise, poor concentration, nausea, confusion, seeing stars, etc.

If an athlete sustains any signs or symptoms of concussion, he/she must be pulled from play immediately. The “Possible Concussion Notification of US Youth Soccer Events” form should be completed for each athlete that has received a possible concussion during practice or competition. Form can be requested from the appropriate Coaching Coordinator or found on the LSA Website Coaching Central Page.

Return to Athletic Activity

Rest is key after a concussion to allow the brain adequate time to heal. Please refer to the “Concussion Procedure and Protocol Info Form for US Youth Soccer Events” for concussion management steps. Any athlete with possible concussion must receive a release from a licensed healthcare provider authorized to evaluate and clear concussions in accordance with applicable state law and US Youth Soccer requirements.

Coach and Parent Resource: <https://www.cdc.gov/heads-up/>

Heat Advisory

LSA recognizes that excessive heat can present serious health risks to participants, coaches, referees, volunteers, and spectators. A Board Member on Duty shall monitor weather conditions, including the heat index, and may modify, delay, shorten, suspend, or cancel activities when heat conditions are determined to present an unreasonable risk.

When heat conditions warrant, LSA may implement one or more of the following measures:

- Increase the frequency and duration of mandatory water breaks.
- Shorten game halves or practice sessions.
- Delay the start of activities.
- Suspend or cancel activities when conditions become unsafe.
- Encourage coaches to rotate players frequently and monitor participants for signs of heat-related illness.

Participants should remain properly hydrated before, during, and after all activities. Coaches, referees, and volunteers should be alert for signs of heat exhaustion or heat stroke, including dizziness, headache, nausea, confusion, excessive fatigue, muscle cramps, or loss of consciousness.

Any participant suspected of suffering from heat stroke shall be treated as a medical emergency. Call 911 immediately, move the individual to a shaded or cool location, begin active cooling measures if possible, and remain with the individual until emergency medical personnel arrive.

Missing Child

The safety of every child is a top priority of LSA. If a parent, guardian, coach, volunteer, or official reports a missing child, the situation shall be treated as an emergency until the child is located.

The following actions shall be taken:



1. Immediately notify a Board Member on Duty.
2. Obtain the child's name, age, physical description, clothing description, and last known location.
3. Assign available Board Members and volunteers to search designated areas of Faulkner Park while maintaining communication with one another.
4. If the child is not located promptly or circumstances indicate an immediate safety concern, call 911 and follow the instructions of law enforcement.
5. Once the child has been located, notify all individuals involved in the search and document the incident for Association records.

LSA personnel shall never remove a child from the park or release a child to anyone other than a parent, legal guardian, or individual authorized by the parent or guardian.

Active Threat

The safety of all participants, volunteers, officials, and spectators is the highest priority of LSA. In the event of an active threat or other violent emergency, all individuals shall immediately follow the directions of law enforcement or designated Board Member on Duty.

When an active threat is identified:

1. Call 911 immediately if it is safe to do so.
2. Run – Evacuate the area when a safe escape route is available.
3. Hide – If evacuation is not possible, seek shelter in a secure location out of view, lock or barricade doors when possible, silence electronic devices, and remain quiet.
4. Fight – As a last resort, and only when your life is in imminent danger, take reasonable actions necessary to protect yourself or others.

Once law enforcement arrives, all individuals shall follow their instructions immediately and remain clear of the incident area until an official all-clear has been given.

Activities shall not resume until authorized by law enforcement or a Board Member on Duty.

Other Emergencies

LSA recognizes that emergencies other than severe weather or medical incidents may occur, including but not limited to fire, hazardous material spills, gas leaks, utility failures, criminal activity, suspicious persons, or other situations that threaten the safety of participants or spectators.

When such an emergency occurs:

1. Call 911 immediately if emergency services are needed.
2. Follow the directions of law enforcement, fire, emergency medical personnel, or other responding authorities.
3. A Board Member on Duty may delay, suspend, relocate, evacuate, or cancel activities whenever conditions present a risk to participants, volunteers, officials, or spectators.



4. Participants, coaches, referees, volunteers, and spectators shall follow all instructions provided by emergency responders and designated Board Member on Duty until the incident has been resolved.

Activities shall not resume until emergency responders or a Board Member on Duty determine that conditions are safe.

Post-Incident Review

Following any significant emergency or incident, the Association may:

- Review the response.
- Document lessons learned.
- Recommend improvements.
- Update procedures.
- Report findings to the Board of Directors.

Policy Review

This policy shall be reviewed annually by the Executive Officers and amended as necessary.

