

# BASEBALL SAFETY PLAYBOOK

## WEATHER DECISION MATRIX

Quick Reference for Tournament Directors, Site Directors & Safety Personnel

### GREEN STATUS - NORMAL OPERATIONS

#### Condition

Normal weather conditions	
Light rain (safe playing surface)	Continue play and monitor
Heat index below 95°F	Normal hydration breaks
Air quality acceptable	Continue play

#### Director Actions

- ✓ Monitor weather periodically
- ✓ Maintain communication capability
- ✓ Review shelter locations
- ✓ Continue normal tournament operations

### YELLOW STATUS - HEIGHTENED AWARENESS

#### Conditions

- Thunderstorms forecast within 10-20 miles
- Heat Index 95°F - 99°F
- Moderate air quality concerns
- Heavy rain approaching
- Wind gusts 20-30 mph
- Weather Watch issued by National Weather Service

#### Director Actions

- ✓ Increase weather monitoring frequency
- ✓ Notify site staff and officials
- ✓ Review shelter and evacuation procedures
- ✓ Alert coaches that conditions are being monitored
- ✓ Prepare for possible suspension of play
- ✓ Increase hydration reminders

#### Communication Message:

"We are monitoring developing weather conditions. Play continues at this time. Coaches and spectators should remain alert for further instructions."

## WHO MAKES THE DECISION?

1. Tournament Director (primary authority)
2. Site Director (venue-level decisions)
3. Safety Officer (advisory role, escalation authority)
4. Umpires (field-level play decisions only)

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## RED STATUS - IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED

### SUSPEND PLAY IMMEDIATELY

- ⚡ Lightning Observed
- ⚡ Thunder Heard
- ⚡ Severe Thunderstorm Warning Issued
- ⚡ Tornado Warning Issued
- ⚡ Dangerous Winds Creating Unsafe Conditions
- ⚡ Flooding or Unsafe Travel Conditions
- ⚡ Heat Emergency Conditions
- ⚡ Air Quality Conditions Creating Immediate Health Concerns

## Immediate Actions

### 1. STOP PLAY

- Suspend all outdoor activities immediately
- Inform officials and coaches
- Secure activity areas if safe

### 2. MOVE TO SHELTER

#### Approved Shelter:

- ✓ Permanent buildings
- ✓ Fully enclosed facilities
- ✓ Hard-top vehicles (if directed)

#### Not Approved:

- Dugouts
- Tents
- Canopies
- Bleachers
- Trees

### 3. COMMUNICATE

#### Announce:

"Play has been suspended due to weather conditions. All participants and spectators should move to designated shelter immediately."

### 4. MONITOR CONDITIONS

- Maintain communication with venue leadership
- Continue weather monitoring
- Provide updates every 15-30 minutes

## LIGHTNING DECISION RULE

SEE LIGHTNING?

HEAR THUNDER?

**WAIT 30 MINUTES**

Resume play only after 30 consecutive minutes without thunder or lightning.  
Any additional thunder or lightning restarts the 30-minute clock.