



REGINA SOCCER REFEREES ASSOCIATION

Lightning Policy

REGINA SOCCER REFEREES ASSOCIATION – LIGHTNING POLICY

When you see storm clouds with lightning in them, follow the “30/30 Rule”.

If there is 30 seconds or less between the flash of lightning and the rumble of thunder, you should seek the best shelter available. The second, and equally important, part of this rule is that you should remain in that shelter for a full 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning or rumble of thunder. Lightning can travel from the back end of the storm for a number of kilometers.

The first part of the “30/30 Rule” is **if thunder is heard within thirty seconds of a visible lightning flash**. When this happens, the storm is less than 10 kilometers away and the safest thing to do is cancel the game. Lightning can strike from many kilometers away, even if it is not raining or overcast.

If it takes longer than thirty seconds between the lightning flash and the sound of thunder, you have some time to allow the game to continue. However, continue to monitor the progress of the storm. You may want to ask one or both coaches, to monitor the storm and perform the first part of the “30/30 Rule”. They can then inform you if the lightning flash and the sound of thunder occur within thirty seconds of each other.

Referees will not restart any game until 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder was heard or the last flash of lightning was seen (the second part of the rule).

Should you decide to cancel a game due to lightning, tell the coaches why you are canceling the game. On the game sheet write the game cancelled due to lightening, the time the game was ended, the score, and any cards that were issued to the players

All team members, officials and spectators should be encouraged to leave the field to a protected area such as a vehicle or inside a building. Stay away from the open fields, goal posts, metal fences and trees.

When you get home, please advise the Regina Soccer Referees Association game assignor, or the president of the cancellation, and the reason why. This way, they can be knowledgeable of the decision and speak to it, if necessary.

In all cases, it is the intent of the Regina Soccer Referees Association to ensure a safe playing environment. Always err on the side of caution. Do not let over zealous individuals stop you from making the right decision!

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