

# WINFIELD IN ACTION WEATHER SAFETY POLICY

At the first signs of lightning or thunder, all games and practices are to stop and teams are to leave the field immediately until safe conditions are apparent. You are advised to seek shelter in a substantial building or a fully enclosed vehicle with the windows completely shut. You should wait 30 minutes after the last observed lightning or thunder before you leave shelter. After 30 minutes, game officials and coaches will make a decision regarding the safe resumption of activities. The suspension of a game can be immediate if conditions are apparent that play cannot be resumed or if the game cannot be completed within given time limits.

Winfield In Action has installed THOR GUARD, a lightning *prediction* system, at the fields. When conditions indicate that a lightning occurrence is probable, a signal is sent to the alarm horns and strobe lights.

A **Warning Signal** is one long 15-second horn blast. This means a potentially dangerous weather situation exists and all patrons **MUST** leave the fields and take shelter.

A **Strobe Light** will flash until the All Clear horn blasts. No activities are allowed on the fields during this time.

The **All Clear Signal** is three short horn blasts. After the All Clear Signal sounds and strobe lights deactivate, park patrons may resume their activities.

Winfield In Action's 30 minute policy supersedes the THOR GUARD system.

- If there is lightning or thunder before the warning signal has had a chance to blast, all games and practices are to stop and teams are to leave the field immediately. In this case, you should wait 30 minutes after the last observed lightning or thunder before you leave shelter. Game officials will make a decision regarding the safe resumption of activities.
- If the ALL CLEAR signal is sounded while lightning is still visible in the distance the mandatory 30 minute rule still applies to the situation.

Neither the signal nor the system is intended to guarantee that conditions are safe.

Coaches are responsible for rescheduling any suspended baseball, softball or soccer games.

**Any head coach, assistant coach or game official not adhering to this weather safety policy will be subject to review by the WIA Disciplinary Review Board which could result, but is not limited to, being relieved of duty for the remainder of the season.**

If the signs for lightning or thunder are evident, the National Lightning Safety Institute says:

- AVOID** all metal objects including goalposts, bats, backstops, bleachers, fences, gates and machinery.
- AVOID** picnic shelters, canopies and dugout areas. These are not safe from lightning.
- AVOID** standing under or by trees.
- AVOID** light poles, flagpoles and power poles.
- AVOID** water, high ground and open spaces.

Lightning's behavior is random and unpredictable. Preparedness and quick response are the best defenses against the lightning hazard.

The THOR GUARD system consists of sensors that measure electrostatic charges at ground level and in the atmosphere. These electrostatic charges, invisible to the naked eye, build up in the atmosphere prior to lightning occurrences.