



Lightning policy

- A responsible person (Head of Sports, all Coaches and Health & Safety Representatives) should be designated to monitor weather conditions.
 - Local weather forecasts - from The Weather Channel, Accuweather, or local TV stations - should be observed 24 hours prior to athletic events.
 - A portable weather radio is recommended for obtaining timely storm data.
 - A portable StrikeAlert Lightning Detector, has been allocated to the following sections of the school:
 - Nursery Aftercare
 - Prep Aftercare
 - Prep Sports Department
 - College Sports Department
 - Coaches can request the use of the portable lightning detector if he/she feels bad weather needs to be monitored. Information on the use of the lightning detector is listed on the last page.
 - The Weatherbug application is a reliable source and should also be used to monitor storm data.
 - Staff on duty will monitor conditions daily before practice, games and activities related to approved extra-curricular activities.
 - An alert message will be posted onto the SUMMERHILL SAFETY and other relevant WhatsApp groups.
- Students should not be allowed out of a covered venue in the event of close lightning/thunder.
 - Where another safety policy is affected (i.e. Pandemic protocols), the safety of the student's immediate person will take precedence.
 - In the event where students have to be moved between safe zones, all non-register teachers and available sport staff should assist to accompany the students in small groups from one safe zone to the next.
- Students must remain in the classrooms if there is lightning before break.
- After school, teachers should hold their students in their venue until the threat has passed. School transport must wait by notification.
- Suspension and resumption of sport activities should be planned in advance. Understanding of SAFE lightning shelters is essential. SAFE evacuation sites include:

NURSERY GROUNDS:

- Library

PREP GROUNDS:

- From the bottom field and cricket nets to room 4 & 6 (spare keys to the venues will be kept in the key box in the Admin Block Teacher's Station in the event that the classrooms are locked)
- From the top field or swimming pool to Forest Hall
- Any substantial building on the school property

COLLEGE GROUNDS:

- Hall
 - Roshcon area classrooms
- UNSAFE LIGHTNING SHELTER AREAS include all outdoor metal objects like flag poles, fences and gates, high mast light poles, metal grandstands, golf cars, machinery, etc. AVOID:
- trees
 - water
 - open fields
 - high ground
- Lightning's distance from you is easy to calculate: if you hear thunder, it and the associated lightning are within auditory range... about 15 kilometres away. The distance from Strike A to Strike B also can be 15 kilometres. Ask yourself why you should NOT go to shelter immediately. Of course, different distances to shelter will determine different times to suspend activities.

A good lightning safety motto is:

"If you can see it (lightning) flee it; if you can hear it (thunder), clear it."

- If you feel your hair standing on end, and/or hear "crackling noises" - you are in lightning's electric field. If caught outside during close-in lightning, immediately remove metal objects (including softball and cricket helmet), place your feet together, duck your head, and crouch down low in squat stance with hands on knees.
- Wait a minimum of 30 minutes from the last observed lightning or thunder before resuming activities.
- People who have been struck by lightning do not carry an electrical charge and are safe to handle. Apply first aid immediately if you are qualified to do so. Get emergency help promptly.

StrikeAlert portable lightning detector information

- The power button has four functions:
- On
 - On with tone
 - Off
 - Storm direction
- To turn the unit on, press the button until the green Power LED light comes on.
- To turn the unit on with an audible tone, press and hold the button until it beeps.
- To turn the unit off, press and hold the button for approximately 3 seconds.

- When a lightning strike is detected, StrikeAlert will light the appropriate LED indicating the distance of the strike.
- The LED will remain lit for two minutes, or until another strike occurs during that time.
- If a more recent strike is further away, the LED indicating this distance will light for two seconds, and then return to complete the two minutes from the nearest strike.
- If a more recent strike is nearer, it will replace the previous LED reading. This LED indicator will be held for two minutes.
- This allows the user to see all the lightning activity within a 40 mile (64km) range, giving clearer visibility to the nearest strike in the last two minutes.
- Please move to the safe lightning shelters (see below) when the lightning strike range falls within the 6-12 (9-20km) and 0-6 (0-9km) mile range.

Procedure in the event a person is hit by lightning

1. Call the emergency services (Tel. 082 124 or 10777)

2. A qualified First Aider must help the person when it is safe

- a) If you are at risk from ongoing lightning, wait until danger has passed or move to a safer place, if possible.
- b) Hand over the patient to the Emergency Services once they arrive.