



# SNOA LIGHTNING POLICY

The summer and fall months bring changeable weather conditions to Southern Nevada, so we must be aware of the dangers of lightning. Officials must take a conservative approach and suspend contests when the lightning/thunder "flash to bang" timing calls for it. Lightning is a serious hazard and storms can move quickly in the Southern Nevada area. SNOA will follow the NFHS "Guidelines for Lightning safety."

## NFHS LIGHTNING GUIDELINES

- **When thunder is heard, or a cloud-to-ground lightning bolt is seen, the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play and take shelter immediately.**
- **Thirty-minute rule... Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or flash of lightning is witnessed prior to resuming play.**
- **Any subsequent thunder or lightning after the beginning of the 30 minute count, reset the clock and another 30 minute count should begin.**
- **Hold periodic reviews for appropriate personnel.**

Officials should recruit the cooperation and assistance of school administrators, trainers, coaches, and auxiliary officiating crews in monitoring conditions. The school administrators and trainers, in particular, can usually pay closer attention to the weather than coaches and officials, who are focused on the play-by-play. Get them to alert you to changing conditions. Discuss this at the pre-game conference with coaches. If thunderstorms are in the forecast the lightning policy should be discussed with coaches and/or game administration prior to the game starting.

The NFHS rule book recommends a 30-minute delay before resuming play. The Southern Nevada Officials Association will follow this policy.

If you have to cancel a contest, you need to document the time of game and score at suspension. This information is important in case the game is replayed, resumed or stands as is. Do not be persuaded to continue a game if your gut tells you otherwise. Competitive people may not have the big picture in mind. They can argue for continued play, **but you have the final word!** SNOA will fully support any decision you make that errs on the side of safety.

# Lightning Can Kill!