

This document represents the Florida Rugby Union's policy with regard to lightning specifically for the Playoff Matches.

For all Florida Rugby Union sanctioned matches, events and/or tournaments. The senior on-site referee and/or an FRU onsite director are empowered to suspend play adverse or predicted unfavorable weather conditions. The FRU onsite director or head referee will jointly decide whether to resume play or to cancel that day's activities. Both the referee or the director have the right to implement these actions based on the following policies:

- Play shall not resume until at least 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder is heard. This is considered to be a safe period of time for any storm to clear the area and no longer be a threat. The storm is equally threatening on the back end as it is on the front end or sides.
- If this resumption time of play extends beyond 630pm and **no** more than 50 minutes of play has been played both teams will be required to replay the match on the following Saturday, this match is to be hosted by the same club.
- If this resumption of play time extends beyond 630pm and more than 50 minutes of play has been played the score at the time of the suspension of play will be considered the final score of the match. In the event the match is tied at this time both teams will replay the match on following Saturday with it hosted by the same club.

Lightning Guidelines

- **The "30-30 Rule"** -- The "30-30 Rule" states that when you see lightning, count the time until you hear thunder. If this time is 30 seconds or less go immediately to a safer place. If you can't see the lightning, just hearing the thunder means lightning is likely to be within striking range. After the storm has apparently dissipated or moved on, wait 30 minutes or more after hearing the last thunder before leaving the safer location
- **Go to a safer location** When lightning strikes, go to a safer location. Do not hesitate. What is a safer location? The safest place commonly available during a lightning storm is a large, fully enclosed substantially constructed building. Substantial construction also implies the building has wiring and plumbing, which can conduct lightning current safely to ground.
- **If you cannot flee** -- Take action to minimize the threat of being stuck. Proceed from higher to lower elevations. Avoid wide-open areas, including sports fields. Avoid tall, isolated objects like trees, poles, and light posts. Do not consider unprotected open structures such as picnic pavilions, rain shelters and bus stops. Avoid contact with metal fences, metal bleachers, or other metal structures.
- **In an Emergency** -- If the worst happens, there are key Lightning First Aid guidelines. First, if at all possible, call "9-1-1" immediately. Since all deaths from lightning strikes result from cardiac arrest and/or stopped breathing, begin treatment as soon as possible. CPR resuscitation is the recommended first aid.