

## Softball Canada Lightning Policy – Taken from the 2009 Canadian Championships Supervisor’s Manual



### **1.1 PROCEDURE IN CASE OF LIGHTNING**

The UIC/DUIC and Softball Canada supervisors should obtain information from the local Host Committee as to the nature and characteristics of lightning in the area. Should lightning occur anytime during the course of a game at a Canadian Championship, the following general guidelines should be used in the stopping and re-starting of the game, bearing in mind any adjustments to timing that may be required as a result of the peculiar characteristics of lightning to the local area;

#### Weather and Outdoor Sports

Weather in Canada is very similar to a good game of softball between two evenly matched teams --- unpredictable. All sports enthusiasts should be prepared for all aspects of weather. The country’s climate in the summer could feature a steady progression of fair and unsettled weather. On any given day, residents could pack the sunscreen, sunglasses, umbrella, sweater and rain jacket.

#### Summer Watches and Warnings

Environment Canada issues severe weather watches as a heads up to residents and visitors. They tell you that severe weather is likely to develop. The lead time is normally two – six hours. Thunderstorms, however, often form quickly so the lead times may be less than two hours.

All watches are either updated or ended. If you hear that a storm watch has been issued, please watch the skies and listen to your local Canadian radio or television station, Environment Canada’s weatheradio broadcasts or check out the weather website.

There are two types of watches:

- A severe thunderstorm watch is issued when weather conditions indicate the likely development of thunderstorms, some of which may become severe.
- A tornado watch is issued when a thunderstorm could possibly spawn tornadoes.

Severe weather warnings are issued only when severe weather is occurring or is about to occur. The weather service tries to provide lead time of 15 minutes – two hours. Usually a watch is issued first, then warnings. In some situations when thunderstorms develop quickly, the warning is issued immediately.

#### Lightning – the most dangerous

In Canada, lightning kills between six and twelve people each year and causes 92-164 injuries. Outdoor recreational enthusiasts account for 70% of the victims killed and 62% of the injuries.

#### Safety Tips

- Keep a safe distance from tall objects, such as trees, hilltops and telephone poles.
- Stay away from objects that conduct electricity, such as metal fences, bats, golf clubs, and bicycles.
- If you are in a group in the open, spread out, keeping people several meters apart.
- If caught in a field far from shelter and you feel your hair stand on end, lightning may be about to hit you. Crouch on the ground immediately, with feet together, placing your hands on your knees and bending forward. Do not lie flat.

#### Use the 30/30 rule

- Take appropriate shelter when you count 30 seconds or fewer between lightning and thunder.
- Remain sheltered for 30 minutes after the last thunder.

#### Obtaining Weather Information

Environment Canada provides summer weather information to the public through local radio and television stations, the Weatheradio network and their website at [www.weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca](http://www.weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca). Please ensure your event stays informed for the protection of all players, fans and volunteers. Stay alert, stay safe and enjoy the game.

\*above information provided by Environment Canada