



ALASKA YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

2021 STATE CUP

Lightning Guidelines

For Alaska Youth Soccer Events



Once signs of dangerous weather have been demonstrated to the Alaska Youth Soccer officials, they will coordinate with the Head Referee. The Alaska Youth Soccer officials will use the “Flash-to-Bang” method to estimate how close the lightning strike is to the event area. Outdoor events will be canceled, and individuals will be instructed to seek shelter if a lightning strike is detected six (6) miles or less from the event.

To utilize the Flash-to-Bang method, the Alaska Youth Soccer officials begins counting when a lightning flash is spotted. The counting is stopped when the associated clap of thunder is heard. The number of seconds elapsed between the flash of lightning and bang of thunder is then divided by 5. This number then represents the distance, in miles, from the lightning hit. For example, when the Flash-to-Bang count reaches 30 seconds, the lightning has struck 6 miles away. The 30-30 rule states that when the Flash-to-Bang count is 30 seconds or below, all activity should be stopped, and all individuals should seek a safe shelter. The other component of the 30-30 rule involves waiting 30 minutes after the last lightning flash is seen or the last roll of thunder is heard to resume activity. It may seem safe to return to activity after the storm has passed, but this is not true. Lightning can and does strike at least 10 miles away from the storm even after the clouds have moved on. This phenomenon is known as a “bolt out of the blue”. Therefore, every time lightning is seen, or thunder is heard, the 30-minute clock should be reset.

Referees may call games for weather at any time during the game, regardless of protest from coaches or spectators.

Always assume the game will be played unless official notification is given. If a game is suspended, the following may apply:

- a) Unfinished games, due to any cause, will be replayed from the start or the point of stoppage, provided that neither team is at fault *nor play has not begun in the second half*.
- b) If play is stopped after *completion of the first half* and cannot be resumed as determined by the Alaska Youth Soccer officials, and provided neither team is at fault, the Alaska Youth Soccer officials may deem the game completed.
- c) If the game has less than 15 minutes remaining, and the score is the 3 points or more in differences, the game will be called complete and winner declared. Games called for weather may not be protested.
- d) Should play be stopped at any time due to one of the teams being adjudged at fault, it shall be at the discretion of the Alaska Youth Soccer officials and/ or State Cup Committee as to whether the game is to be replayed, stand as is, or declared a forfeit.

In the event of inclement weather (Lightning and Air Quality Guidelines) or unforeseen circumstances affects the Alaska State Cup competition. Alaska Youth Soccer officials and/ or State Cup Committee reserves the right to make decisions concerning competition. Decisions are final, not subject to appeal.

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