## NLYAA Lightning Policy

##  The head coach of NLYAA team (s) is responsibility for removing athletes from the practice/game area in a timely manner. In the event that the head coach is not present, the assistant coach will assume responsibility.

## On game days the Director, Coaching Staff, member of the Executive Board or officiating staff has responsibility for clearing the fields.

**Criteria for Evacuation of the Practice/Game Area**

The NLYAA policy will be as follows:

* The NLYAA Coach or Director will inform the visiting team of NLYAA's policy with regards to lightning during pre-game warm-ups if weather conditions warrant.
* The NLYAA Coach or Director will monitor impending conditions and watch and listen for lightning and/or thunder, and will be responsible for determining when the fields are to be cleared.
* When thunder or lightning are detected or imminent, the NLYAA Coach or Director will alert all players and spectators and suspend all games and practices.
* Everyone must evacuate to a safe structure or location such as the school building or garage. Being on the exterior of a building or structure or under a pavilion is not a safe area and should be cleared. Anyone who is not inside a safe structure such as such as the school building or garage should be sent to their vehicles since a vehicle is considered to be safe because it is enclosed with a hard metal roof, rubber tires, and completely closed windows. Caution should be taken to not touch the sides of the vehicle during lightening. Convertible and "soft-top" vehicles and golf carts are not considered to be safe protection from lightening.
* During a thunderstorm, the use plumbing facilities and land-line telephones should be avoided.
* In the event that safe shelter in not able to available, avoid being near tall trees and objects (i.e. light poles, flag poles, etc.), metal objects (i.e. fences, bleachers, etc.), individual trees, standing pools of water, and open fields. Also avoid being the highest object in an open field (crouching is recommended in this event).
* In situations where thunder and/or lightning may or may not be present, yet someone feels his/her hair stand on end and skin tingle, LIGHTNING IS IMMINENT! Therefore, all persons should assume the "lightning-safe" position as described above.
* In situations where a lightning detection or a warning system is operating, all coaches, directors and participants must follow posted procedures.
* A cellular phone is a safe alternative to land-line phones, if the person and the antenna are located within a safe structure or location, and if all other precautions are followed.
* All individuals have the right to leave a site or activity, without fear of repercussion or penalty, in order to seek a safe structure or location if they feel they are in danger from impending lightning activity.

**Criteria for Safe Return to the Practice/Game Area**

* No one should return to the practice or game area until twenty (20) minutes have passed since the last lightning flash or the lightning detector indicates that lightning is greater than 20 miles away.
* Each time lightning is observed and/or thunder is heard, the "20-minute clock" is to be reset.
* Blue skies in the local area and/or a lack of rainfall are not adequate reasons to breach the 20-minute return-to-play rule. Lightning can strike up to ten (10) miles away from the rain shaft of a storm.