



## **DRAFT GRSL SEVERE WEATHER AND LIGHTNING POLICY FALL 2021-2022**

With the Lightning system now installed and functioning at Forest Park, the GRSL will be adopting a new lightning alert and severe weather delay policy for league play. The purpose of this policy is to better ensure the safety of our players and remove guess work with regards to the lightning danger in the area. The Forest Park system will sound a 10-second long horn/alarm indicating lightning within a 10-mile radius of the fields (At Fred Cone Park this will be based on the Perry Weather App Alert). The system will sound the all clear using three 5 second horn/alarm blasts to signal all clear when there has been no lightning within a 10-mile radius for the last 30 minutes. Note, severe weather may not involve lightning, the center referee may call the game for other types of dangerous weather (e.g. prolonged torrential rain event where severe flooding of fields creates unsafe playing conditions).

In the event of a lightning alarm or severe weather:

- The referee will stop play.
- All players must leave the fields and sidelines and take safe shelter immediately.
  - The State of Florida Division of Emergency Management identifies safe shelter as, “inside a substantial building, such as a home, away from the windows. Vehicles with metal roofs also provide safe shelter from lightning.
- If the lightning delay occurs BEFORE the first half of the game is concluded:
  - The game will be delayed for up to a maximum of 45 minutes.
    - If the all clear alarm (Forest Park) or alert (Perry Weather App) sounds before 45 minutes has elapsed, the game will resume at the point where it left off. Half-time will be shortened by 5 minutes to make up some time.
    - If the all clear alarm (Forest Park) or alert (Perry Weather App) does NOT sound before 45 minutes has elapsed, the game will be cancelled.
    - Each game can only be delayed once. Should a second lightning or inclement weather delay occur, the game will be cancelled.
- If the lightning delay occurs AFTER the first half of the game is concluded:
  - The game will be called and will count and will NOT be restarted.
  - The final score will be the score at the time the game was stopped by the center referee.
- Subsequent games that day will continue as scheduled unless otherwise notified by the GRSL WhatsApp forum. The GRSL Board will update where possible to inform of delayed starts for later games.
- IT IS THE CAPTAINS RESPONSIBILITY TO MONITOR THE WHATSAPP CHAT TO ENSURE THEY ARE AWARE OF WEATHER DECISIONS AND DELAYS THAT MAY AFFECT RESTART AND GAME START TIMES. FORFEITURE WILL RESULT IN A MISSED START.

\*\*\*\*Make-up games will be scheduled at the end of the regular season\*\*\*\*