

## **AYSO Region 676 Severe Weather Policy**

The AYSO mission is to promote fun, family soccer, and includes a safe playing environment for all participants. Safety and Risk Management must be addressed for regularly scheduled games, practices and special events. The safety of our players, parents, and volunteers are the top priority for us. We need to enforce these severe weather policies strictly, and without question or hesitation.

1. Games will be stopped immediately at the SOUND OF THUNDER, or the SIGHT OF LIGHTNING. If you can hear thunder, the lightning is within 10 miles. People can be injured by lightning from storms that are more than seven miles away.
2. The field must be vacated immediately. Players, volunteers, and spectators must return to their cars where they are safe from a lightning strike. There should be no exceptions to this rule, and coaches must take the lead on this if a referee or board member is not present.
3. If the game has not reached half time, the game can be rescheduled. If it has reached half time, the game will be considered complete. Make up games can be scheduled between the two coaches either the Saturday after the last game, or during one of the team's practice nights. This will be worked out between the two coaches.
4. Games can only start if there is no sight of lightning or no thunder for 30 minutes before game time. This will be a game time decision by the referee, or a board member, or the two coaches if a referee or board member is not present. You will still need to show up to the game. The game time decision policy is standard practice for many AYSO Regions.
5. A tornado watch or tornado warning will cause a game cancellation until the watch or warning expires. Games can start if the watch or warning expires within 30 minutes before the original start time of the game, provided there is no sight of lightning and no sound of thunder. Coaches will be responsible to inform their players of a cancellation. Wood TV8 will be contacted to announce the cancellation.