



NAIA INCLEMENT WEATHER GUIDELINES

The NAIA Certified Athletic Trainers are committed to providing the best environment for safe competition. A means of providing a safe environment is the development of an Inclement Weather Guideline for outdoor events. By establishing such guidelines, each member institution ensures the safety of all student-athletes, coaches, support staff, medical staff, and spectators both at home and away events within the NAIA.

The NAIA recommends the following guidelines be used.

- I. Monitor weather conditions and be ready to activate the Chain of Command.
- II. When a trainer is present he or she may have the lightning detector, which will determine when the playing field is unsafe. In the absence of the lightning detector, the Flash to Bang method should be used. When thunder or lightning is observed, suspend activities with a Flash to Bang count of 30 seconds or less (when storm is 6 miles away).
To use the Flash to Bang count, count the seconds from the time lightning is sighted to when the clap of thunder is heard. Divide this number by five to obtain how far away (in miles) the lightning is occurring. (Ex. 20 second count=4 mile distance, 25 second count=5 mile distance, etc.)
- III. Leave the athletic fields and seek SAFE shelter areas—IMMEDIATELY! (This means do not stay on the field to close things up. Coaches should take into consideration that bad weather is approaching and should close up the fields before the weather is here.)

SAFE shelter areas:

- Enclosed buildings—ICI Center
- Fully enclosed metal vehicles with windows up
- Low ground areas (ex: bottom of a hill, clumps of bushes, etc.) as a last resort

UNSAFE shelter areas:

- Open fields
- Golf carts
- Metal bleachers (on or under them)
- Fences
- Umbrellas, light poles, flag poles
- Tall trees
- Pools of standing water

AVOID the following activities:

- Showers
- Telephones (except cellular)
- Use of electrical outlets/machines (ex.: hair dryers, computers, TV/VCR, fax)

If you feel your hair standing on end, and/or “crackling noises” you are in lightning’s electric field. IMMEDIATELY assume a crouched position: arms around knees, head tucked, and only the balls of your feet touching the ground.

- IV. Play may resume 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning or sound of thunder. Sports Medicine staff should be consulted regarding resuming play for events held at the ICI athletic venues.
- V. Activate the Emergency Action Plan if someone is struck by lightning. A person struck by lightning does NOT carry an electrical charge; immediately initiate the emergency action plan and begin the primary survey.

SPORTS MEDICINE: Inclement Weather Policy

INCLEMENT WEATHER GUIDELINE *GAMES*

CHAIN OF COMMAND

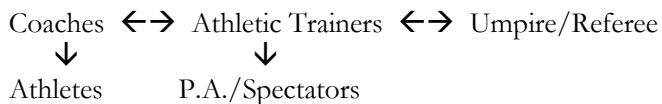
For all outdoor games, the athletic training staff will check area weather reports prior to game time. The coaching staff is also encouraged to do so.

Pre-game cancellations will be at the discretion of the hosting coach, visiting coach, athletic director, or designated game manager.

Once games or practices have begun, weather will be monitored by

- Regional internet radar
- Lightning detector
- Flash-to-Bang method

Increasing weather conditions will prompt actions taken in the following Chain of Command:



The athletic training staff will notify coaches and umpires of increased weather conditions. If the game will be terminated, coaches will notify the athletes and the spectators will be notified by either the athletic training staff or Athletic Director/P.A.

The Sports Medicine Staff will do its best to notify coaches as early as possible that inclement weather is on its way. This information should be used to make decisions, such as closing up the field, so that when it arrives there is no problem of trying to take care of equipment. When told, all athletes must come off the field and go inside. If any of these rules are not followed and the life of an ERAU student-athlete is put at risk the Athletic Director will be notified immediately.

TERMINATION OF PLAY

Play will be terminated, if:

- Flash-to-Bang count is 30 seconds (6 miles) or less
 - Detector reads storm “3-8” miles away
- This should be done regardless if it is raining or not.

Play may resume 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning or sound of thunder. Sports Medicine staff should be consulted regarding resuming play for events held at the ICI athletic venues.

Notification of Spectators

If a game is suspended due to lightning, the Sports Medicine Staff or Game Management Staff must announce through the PA system for spectators to go inside and remain inside a designated secure shelter until an announcement is made for play to resume.