

# SPORTS MEDICINE: Inclement Weather Policy



Inclement Weather Policy  
Updated 6/23/2023  
Reviewed: 6/23/2023

Embry-Riddle Athletic Training staff will monitor weather as it approaches by radar. The staff will monitor lightning with DTN (Weather Sentry) lightning detection system.

When a reading of lightning is within 15 miles, coaches and officials will be notified of inclement weather and the possibility of delay. At this time, equipment not necessary for participation is to be packed and prepared for removal from location. Water based sports (Rowing) should return to land and seek shelter at a reading of 15 miles. When a reading of lightning is within 8 miles, ALL outdoor activities will be suspended for 30 minutes from the last lightning reading. If when at the pool, lightning is not yet at the 8 mile mark and weather looks like it will hold back, we will allow travel time to other location.

When lightning is detected within 8 miles, ALL teams and staff must leave the athletic fields and seek **SAFE** shelter areas—**IMMEDIATELY!** (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 weather arrives.)

#### SAFE shelter areas:

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

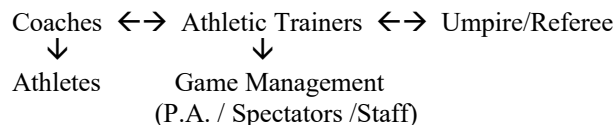
#### UNSAFE shelter areas:

- Open fields
- Golf carts
- Metal bleachers (on or under them)
- Dugouts
- Umbrellas, light poles, flag poles
- Tall trees

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.

- Resume activity 30 minutes from the last reading of lightning (DTN will also text All Clear signal)
- 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.

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



The Athletic Training staff will notify coaches and umpires of increased weather conditions. If the game is postponed, coaches will notify the student-athletes and spectators will be notified by either the Athletic Training Staff or Game Administrator via public address.

During an event where an Embry-Riddle team is traveling, the traveling athletic trainer will meet with the host athletic trainer to discuss and agree on inclement weather policy. This agreement may be based off of both institutions’ inclement weather policies. If needed include both head coaches and the game administrator to come to an agreement. In the case that an athletic trainer is not traveling with the team, the host institution inclement weather policy will be followed.

All outside sport coaches are on the DTN (Weather Sentry) lightning text notification system. This system sends all numbers a caution text notifying of lightning within a 15-mile radius, and a warning text notifying of lightning within the 8-mile radius. If coaches receive a text and lightning is within 8 miles they must clear sports complex immediately. The exception to this is water based sports (Rowing) that will clear at 15 miles. Coaches should not wait for notification from Sports Medicine to clear fields.