

Inclement Weather and Outside Activities

In the event of possible inclement weather during an outside activity, best practice is to have an agreed procedure in place to determine when play should be interrupted. The following information is offered to assist in the decision making process but in no way should be taken as an OSSAA or NFHS mandated rule or guideline for interruption of play. Sole authority for starting the contest rests with the home team administration and sole authority for play interruption after the contest begins rests with the lead official, however; best practice is that these decisions involving inclement weather and interruption of play are a collaborative effort made by administration from both schools and the officials assigned to the contest.

Prior to the Beginning of the Contest

- Identify the decision makers on site: administrators from each school and game officials.
- Identify shelters in case evacuation of game facility is needed.
- Identify resources available: such as lightening detectors and radar access.
- Discuss non-acceptable limits: distances for lightening, flashes vs thunder.
- Identify liaison to the official from the home administration.

For more detailed information, refer to the NFHS Sports Medicine Committee's *"Guidelines for Lightening Safety"* a link on the Home page of the OSSAA website.

Terminating a Contest Due to Inclement Weather

Termination and/or rescheduling of the contest must be agreed by both schools. District contests may have specific re-scheduling provisions in OSSAA policy; such as, football district games must be completed by the following Monday and baseball/softball/soccer district contests have a district play completion date in the OSSAA manual.