

# OBGC Lightning Policy

Lightning is a dangerous phenomenon. Athletic teams that practice and compete outdoors are at risk when the weather is inclement. The Olney Boys and Girls Community Sports Association has developed the following lightning safety policy, which must be followed, to minimize the risk of injury from a lightning strike to its athletes, coaches, and fans. This policy will be strictly enforced as the safety of the player is paramount.

## **Responsibility for Removing Athletes**

The responsibility for removing athletes from a practice or playing area in a timely manner lies with the head coach of the respective OBGC team(s). If the head coach is not present, an assistant coach will assume responsibility. In the event that no coaches are present, the parents of the players will be responsible for the evacuation of the of the area.

## **Suspension of play**

If at any time lightning is seen or thunder is heard at the field, all play must be stopped immediately and all players, coaches, and fans need evacuate the area and seek shelter. Play cannot continue until there has been a 30-minute waiting period after the last lightning flash is seen. Even if weather conditions appear to have improved within the 30-minute window, you must wait the required time. Lightning can strike from as far as 10 miles away.

## **Evacuation Areas**

At the OBGC park, the proper evacuation area is in your personal vehicle or the pavillion at concession stand #1, there are no other safe areas! At other facilities, in the Olney area, please evacuate to your vehicles for the required 30-minute waiting period. If unable to reach safe shelter or a parked vehicle, persons should stay away from tall poles or trees, metal objects (i.e. fences, bleachers, etc.), standing pools of water, and open fields.

The onus of removing a team or individual from an athletic site in the event of lightning activity is on the coach supervising the activity. The safety of all team members rests with that coach. **Coaches who do not comply with the above are subject to immediate disciplinary action by the OBGC Board of Directors.**