**Blue River Soccer Association Severe Weather Policy**

1. **Lightning** - When **lightning is within a 12-mile radius of BRSA fields**, immediately suspend all games/or practices and move all members into a safe location. Do not delay. Evacuate quickly. All players must be off the fields/grass area immediately.
   1. Board member on duty, Director on Duty, will monitor lightning in the area using a weather station and lightning monitor located at the fields and monitored by the Board member on duty.
   2. Director on Duty is responsible for monitoring lightning in the area and announcing closure via Remind and Facebook notifications.
   3. It is the responsibility of all board members, coaches, and referees to assure all participants are moved to a safe location. There are two safe locations located at the BRSA fields. This does not include any grass area on the fields. Immediately leave the fields. Coaches are responsible for ensuring all players are evacuated to a safe location.
      1. All participants must be seated in their appropriate vehicles.
      2. Board members should remain in the concession stand/building until a plan for the games have been determined or until it is unsafe to remain at the facility.
   4. Director on Duty will evaluate the fields 30 minutes after initial closure. Updates will be posted on Facebook and via Remind groups every 30 minutes. The fields will not reopen until no lightning strikes have hit within the 12-mile radius for 30 minutes. The area must be lightning-free for 30 minutes at least before fields will reopen. During the week, the fields will automatically close after 2 lightning delays. On the weekends, complete field closure will be determined by the Director on Duty with consideration of time of day and number of games, not the number of lightning delays.
      1. An air horn signal set off by Director on Duty will signify the closure/re-opening of the field.
         1. *ONE LONG blast will signal the fields are closed–SEEK SHELTER.*
         2. *TWO SHORT blasts will signal the fields are re-opened for play.*
   5. If it is apparent that the severe weather will not pass and the games must be cancelled or suspended the following guidelines will be followed:
      1. If the match was in the first half, the match will be rescheduled and play will begin with a whole new match.
      2. If the match was in the second half, the match will end with the result at the time of the stoppage. Games will be rescheduled based on availability, contact board for details.
2. **Tornado** - If a **Tornado Watch** or **Tornado Warning** exist for Shelby or surrounding counties, all games and practices are SUSPENDED. Games will be rescheduled based on availability.
3. **Hail**  - When Hail is seen, immediately SUSPEND all games and/or practices and close fields. Move players to a safe location. Lightning and Thunder guidelines will be followed. If weather has cleared, fields may reopen. If Hail, Lightning or Thunder remain in the area, fields will remain closed and games/practices will be rescheduled.

In the event that games have to be cancelled, BRSA will make every attempt to reschedule them if at all possible. Practices will be rescheduled at the coach’s discretion.

The best way to determine whether or not games are cancelled is to join the Remind group for field notifications and check the BRSA website. Check “FIELD STATUS” on middle of page, right. Fields will be listed as OPEN or CLOSED.

Updated Fall 2023.

Contact [brsapresident@gmail.com](mailto:brsapresident@gmail.com) for questions or more information.