

# **Barrie Ultimate Lightning Policy**

Lightning is a severe hazard that must be treated seriously.

If severe weather is imminent or thunder is heard, captains are to prepare to suspend the game. They are to advise their players accordingly. Lightning awareness should begin with the first flash of lightning seen or thunder clap heard.

Captains will use the “Flash to Bang” method to monitor lightning for evacuation of the playing field to a safer environment. With this method the seconds are counted from the time a flash of lightning is seen until a clap of thunder is heard. For every five seconds between the flash of lightning and the bang of thunder, lightning is 1.6 km (1 mile) away. When this number is 30 seconds or less, the lightning is less than 9.7 km (6 miles) away and evacuation of the field shall get under way.

When evacuating the field, please remember the following;

1. Large enclosed structures (substantially constructed buildings) tend to be much safer than smaller or open structures. If however, such a building is not available, fully enclosed vehicles such as cars, trucks, buses, vans, with the windows rolled up provide good shelter from lightning. Never stand under trees, in an open field or under an umbrella.
2. Do not take shelter under or near flag poles, metal fences or light poles.
3. Should you be caught in a lightning storm, assume the lightning safe position (crouch on the ground, weight on the balls of your feet, feet together, head lowered and ears covered). Do not lie flat on the ground.

Games should not be restarted until 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder was heard or the last flash of lightning was seen.