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Lightning Policy

In an effort to maintain a safe environment for athletes to train at the University of Tampa the following guidelines have been implemented regarding severe weather/lightning:

1. Lightning Detection:

- a. Personnel- The athletic trainer on site shall be responsible for monitoring for any severe weather in the area. In the absence of a Certified Athletic Trainer the head coach will be responsible for monitoring for any severe weather threats.
- b. Equipment- Sky scan hand held monitors will be utilized to monitor any approaching severe weather. In the absence of the hand held monitoring device the *flash-bang method* will be utilized. *Flash/Bang Method:* Count the number of seconds which past between a lightning strike (flash) and the following sound of thunder (bang).

2. Notification and Evacuation

- a. Warning- The head coach should be notified of any lightning strikes that are within twenty miles of the venue when utilizing the Sky Scan Device or a flash-bang time of 50 seconds.
- b. Suspension of Activity- All activity should be immediately suspended if any strikes are noted within the 3-8 or 0-3 range on the Sky Scan Device or a *Flash-Bang* time of 30 seconds or less. The head coach should be immediately notified and will be responsible for immediately clearing any outdoor venue.

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- c. Notification- A certified athletic trainer will be responsible for notifying game officials of all warnings that may result in the officials deeming the event unsafe to continue.

3. Safe Locations from a Lightning Hazard

- a. Any fully enclosed, substantial building; ideally with plumbing, electrical wiring and telephone service which aid in grounding the building.
- b. If a substantial building is not available, a fully enclosed vehicle with a metal roof and the windows completely enclosed is a reasonable alternative.
- c. Cellular or cordless telephones should be used for summoning help during a thunderstorm. They are a reasonably safer alternative to land-line telephones.

4. Unsafe Locations from a Lightning Hazard

- a. Small structures such as rain or picnic shelters or athletic storage sheds should be avoided during thunderstorms.
- b. Convertible vehicles and golf carts do not provide a high level of protection and cannot be considered safe from lightning.
- c. Locker-room shower areas, swimming pools, land-line telephones and electrical appliances are also unsafe due to the possible contact with current carrying conduction.

5. If No Safe Location is Available

- a. Find a thick grove of small trees surrounded by taller trees or a dry ditch.
- b. Stay away from the tallest trees or objects (i.e. light poles or flag poles), metal objects (i.e. fences or bleachers), individual trees, standing pools of water, and open fields.

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- c. Assume a crouched position on the ground with only the balls of your feet touching the ground, head lowered and cover your ears. DO NOT LIE FLAT!
- d. A person who feels his/her hair stands on end or skin tingle should immediately assume the position described above.

6. Resumption of Athletic Activity

- a. Flash/Bang can be used in conjunction with the lightning detector, if available, and local weather reports to make a sound decision.
- b. Resumption of athletic activity should not occur until thirty (30) minutes after the last lightning flash is seen.

7. Obligation to Warn

- a. According to a basic principle of tort law, an individual has a duty to warn others of dangers that may not be obvious to a guest of that person.
- b. Public address message should be given warning spectators of UT athletic events if lightning activity becomes an imminent danger in the immediate area.

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