

**City of Golden Valley – Parks and Recreation
Severe Weather Guidelines– Youth and Adult Athletics**

The City of Golden Valley Parks and Recreation Department will use the following guidelines and procedures when inclement weather occurs prior to or during city sponsored athletic opportunities and private athletic groups utilizing City of Golden Valley Athletic Facilities. The processes outlined within have been developed to protect all participants, staff, and spectators involved in athletic opportunities in Golden Valley.

The City of Golden Valley is not a guarantor of participants' safety. Information contained in these guidelines has been gathered through widespread industry sources. All reasonable attempts have been made to ensure it is accurate, relevant and current. Nevertheless, these guidelines are advisory in nature and may not cover each and every circumstance resulting from severe weather events. Nor can they, when adhered to, entirely eliminate risk or possibility of loss or injury. Participants should use their best judgment and take action to protect their own safety.

INCLEMENT WEATHER CONDITIONS

- **Severe Weather Warnings**

The National Weather Service (NWS) will issue warnings when a severe thunderstorm or tornado is occurring or imminent in the warning area. If a severe weather warning is issued in the area, participants are advised to seek shelter.

**** The NWS does not issue warnings for lightning.*

- **Severe Weather Siren**

Sirens are used for severe weather warnings, as well as other situations when people should take shelter. Weather-related sirens are triggered when the National Weather Service has issued a tornado warning, and/or if there are reports of sustained straight-line winds in excess of 70 mph in the vicinity of the siren.

**** All sirens in Hennepin County sound at 1 p.m. on the 1st Wednesday of each month.*

- **“Flash-bang” Measurement**

Used as a general method to determine the distance of existing lightning. Measuring time between the flash of lightning and the crack of thunder to obtain the distance of the lightning.

**** 5 seconds = 1 mile.*

- **Unsafe Facility Conditions**

The City of Golden Valley may cancel any programs, events, or activities utilizing City Athletic Facilities at any time if unsafe conditions exist. These conditions may be caused by weather or any other unforeseen circumstances. The City reserves the right to modify or cancel program status at any time based on inclement weather or facility conditions.

INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEEDURES

When a severe weather warning is issued for within a 10 mile radius of Golden Valley, all programs, events, or activities utilizing City Athletic Facilities will be cancelled. Participants are advised to seek shelter immediately.

Weather related decisions for programs, events, and activities utilizing City Athletic Facilities shall be enforced on all facilities at the same location. Advisory communication from Golden Valley's Weather Watch System will supersede all predetermined weather related decisions.

In the event of lightning or thunder, the status of athletic activities will be determined using the following guidelines:

City Sponsored Youth Athletics

- If lightning is sighted within six miles of the facility or if any thunder is heard, all activities on location shall be suspended. Staff may utilize electronic resources available to them or contact the Pro Shop at Brookview Golf Course to utilize resources at their disposal to determine lightning distance. If those are unavailable the Flash-Bang guideline outlined above shall be used. If the time is 30 seconds or less activities will be postponed and participants are advised to seek shelter.
- Activities less than 60 minutes in length will be cancelled at the onset of postponement due to lightning. All other activities should not be restarted for at least 30 minutes after the most recent lightning strike is seen.

City Sponsored Adult Athletics

- If lightning is sighted within six miles of the facility or if any thunder is heard, all activities on location shall be suspended. Staff may utilize electronic resources available to them or contact the Pro Shop at Brookview Golf Course to utilize resources at their disposal to determine lightning distance. If those are unavailable the Flash-Bang guideline outlined above shall be used. If the time is 30 seconds or less activities will be postponed and participants are advised to seek shelter.
- Activities less than 45 minutes in length will be cancelled at the onset of postponement due to lightning. All other activities should not be restarted for at least 20 minutes after the most recent lightning strike is seen.

Private User Groups

- Each organization utilizing City Athletic Facilities is encouraged to develop and implement a weather policy specific to their organization and followed in case of inclement weather.
- If no organization weather policy exists, organization are expected to follow the guidelines issued by their governing body or the Minnesota State High School League.
- City Athletic Facilities may be closed to user groups at the discretion of City of Golden Valley staff due to conditions, water saturation, or safety at any time.