Severe Weather Conditions / Lightning
For Games

The Kutztown University Sports Medicine Staff will be monitoring severe weather conditions through Weather Sentry, an on-line weather service. It will provide instant alerts to lightening and impending severe weather approaching the Kutztown campus. We may also use the following secondary equipment or methods should this system become unavailable: 1) portable SkyScan “lightning detector” and/or 2) ‘Flash-to-Bang’. A printout of the day’s hourly forecast will be available daily.

Prior to Competition:
A member of the KU Sports Medicine Staff and/or a Representative of the Athletic Department (RAD) will greet the official(s) and explain that a Certified Athletic Trainer (ATC) will monitor the weather. If the ATC decides that there is imminent danger from lightning they will notify the official(s) to suspend play. If an ATC is not on-site or immediately available, then the authority is given to RAD, the official(s), or the Head Coach (in that order) to recommend suspension of play.

Criteria for suspension:
Weather Sentry Alert (text or online) / SkyScan Lightning/Storm Detector:
Whenever we have a detection of lightning within a zero(0) to eight(8) mile radius, we will inform the officials working the current game that lightning is nearby and the game needs to be halted. A thirty minute period, from the time of the last recorded strike, with no further detection will allow teams to resume the game.
If there are any readings in the 8-20 mile range, the ATC or RAD should alert the official(s) so action can be taken quickly if necessary.

*NOTE:* Lightning can reach six(6) miles from the point of its origin and does not need to be preceded by thunder or dark skies. The following ranges will be used:
Weather Sentry Alert: Warning=0-8 miles; Caution=9-14 miles; Advisory=15-20 miles
SkyScan: We will be monitoring the (0-3) and (3-8) mile ranges.

Utilization of the Flash-to-Bang Method:
If this method is being used, count the seconds from the time the lightning is sighted to when the clap of thunder is heard. Divide this number by five to obtain how far away, in miles, the lightning is occurring. (NCAA Sports Medicine Handbook) If it reveals lightning to be within 6 miles (a 30 second count between the flash of lightning and the bang of thunder) activity is to be suspended and everyone should seek shelter immediately.

Evacuation of Playing Field:
Immediately following the announcement of suspension of play all athletes, coaches, officials and support personnel are to evacuate to the nearest grounded structure as per the individual universities policy.

Evacuation of the Stands:
Once a decision to suspend play has been made, a representative of the athletic department will announce to the fans:

“Play has been suspended due to potentially serious weather conditions in the immediate area. Fans are advised to immediately seek shelter in the nearest enclosed grounded building.”
**Safe Structure:**

The primary choice for a safe structure is any fully enclosed, substantial building. Ideally, the building should have plumbing, electric wiring, and telephone service. If a substantial building is not available, a fully enclosed vehicle with a metal roof and the windows completely closed is a reasonable alternative. See attached list of safe structures per venue.

**Safe Structures by Venue:**

**Stadium Activities/Football & Field Hockey/Tennis courts:**
1. Keysone Hall (Football, etc)
2. Student Rec Center (as available)
3. Risley Hall (visiting FB team)

**Soccer Game Field:**
1. Keystone Hall/O’Pake Fieldhouse

**North Campus Practice & Game Fields:**

**Baseball**
1. Lytle Hall
2. Academic Forum Bldg
3. Grim Science Bldg
4. Bathroom facility between SB/BB fields *(only on practice days)*

**Softball**
1. Grim Science Bldg
2. Boehm Science Bldg
3. Academic Forum Bldg
4. Bathroom facility between SB/BB fields *(only on practice days)*

**W Soccer**
1. PA German Cultural Heritage Center
2. Grim Science Bldg
3. Boehm Science Bldg
4. Academic Forum Bldg

**Resumption of Activity:**

**Weather Sentry Alert (text or online):** Activity may resume after receiving an alert that clears the area of any lightning strikes within a 0-8 mile radius within the past 30 minutes (via text or online).

**SkyScan Lightning/Storm Detector:** Activity may resume 30 minutes after the last 0-8 mile radius reading.

**Flash-to-Bang Method:** Activity may resume 30 minutes after the last sound (thunder) or observation of lightning.