

TO: Section Executive Directors/Secretaries
NYSPHSAA Sports Coordinators
OCF Officials Representatives
State Officials Interpreters

FROM: Walter G. Eaton, Jr., Assistant Director

DATE: October 27, 2004

RE: Thunder Policy



At their October 25, 2004 meeting, the NYSPHSAA Executive Committee adopted a policy amending the current lightning policy to include thunder. This policy is to be applied for all school sponsored contests - local level (league and non-league) through State Championship play. Sections may adopt a more restrictive policy and need to notify both schools and local officials chapters/boards if they do so. The NYSPHSAA policy is effective immediately and is enclosed.

While this policy applies to outdoor sports, all organizations/state coordinators are receiving this memorandum for information purposes.

NYSPHSAA THUNDER & LIGHTNING POLICY (EFFECTIVE 10/25/04)

- 1) Thunder and lightning necessitates that contests be suspended. The occurrence of thunder and/or lightning is not subject to interpretation or discussion - thunder is thunder, lightning is lightning.
 - ✱ With your site administrator, set up a plan for shelter prior to the start of any contest.
- 2) When thunder is heard and/or when lightning is seen, the following procedures should be adhered to:
 - a. Suspend play and direct participants to go to shelter, a building normally occupied by the public or if a building is unavailable, participants should go inside a vehicle with a solid metal top (e.g. bus, van, car).
 - b. Do not permit people to stand under or near a tree; and have all stay away from poles, antennas, towers and underground watering systems.
 - c. After thunder and/or lightning have left the area, wait approximately 30 minutes after the last boom is heard or strike is seen before resuming play or competition.