

## **RULES FOR LEAGUE USE OF BALL FIELDS**

### THE CITY AND COUNTY OF BROOMFIELD, COMMUNITY RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, RECREATION PROGRAM DIVISION

#### 1. DEFINITIONS

1.1 As used in these rules, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

1.1.1 *Code of conduct* is as set forth in Exhibit C.

1.1.2 *Competitive team* is as set forth in Exhibit B.

1.1.3 *City* is the City and County of Broomfield.

1.1.4 *Ball field* is ball fields, athletic fields or courts owned by the city or by school districts for which the City has express scheduling and/or maintenance authority from the school district.

1.1.5 *Permittee* is league that has been granted a permit to use ball fields in accordance with these rules.

1.1.6 *League* is an association of teams. A league enrolls participants through a registration process.

1.1.7 *Recreation team* is as described in Exhibit A.

1.2 All exhibits referenced in these rules are attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference.

#### 2. APPLICATION AND PERMIT

2.1 Every league desiring to use City ball fields must complete and submit an application for league use of ball field to the City. Only completed applications with all required attachments will be accepted by the City.

The following documents are required attachments for league applications:

2.1.1 Insurance Certificate - Section 6.1

2.1.2 League Description, notice of League season, registration information - Section 6.2

2.1.3 Affirmation that the League has conducted background checks - Section 6.3

2.1.4. Verification of Colorado Non-profit status - Section 6.4

2.1.5. Current Set of By-Laws - Section 6.4

2.1.6. Summary Report of all expenditures and revenues for the prior year - Section 6.5

2.1.7 List of Board Members - Section 6.13

2.1.8. League Contact Information - Section 6.14

2.2 To the extent authorized by law, the City and County Manager or a designee thereof may deny an application for permit if the applicant or the person on whose behalf the application for permit was made has on prior occasions made material misrepresentation regarding the nature or scope of an event or activity previously permitted or has violated the terms of prior permits issued to or on behalf of the applicant. The City and County Manager or a designee thereof may also deny an application for permit on any of the following grounds:

2.2.1 The application for permit, including all required attachments and submissions, is not fully completed and executed;

2.2.2 The applicant has not tendered the required application fees with the application or has not tendered the required user fee, insurance certificate, team roster or other required documentation within the times prescribed;

2.2.3 The application for permit contains a material falsehood or misrepresentation;

2.2.4 The applicant is legally incompetent to contract or to sue or be sued;

2.2.5 The applicant or the person on whose behalf the application for permit was made has on prior occasions damaged the property of the City and has not paid in full for such damage, or has other outstanding and unpaid debts to the City;

2.2.6 A fully-executed prior application for permit for the same time and place has been received, and a permit has been or will be granted to a prior applicant authorizing uses or activities, which do not reasonably permit multiple occupancy of the particular ball field;

2.2.7 The use or activity intended by the applicant would conflict with previously planned programs organized and conducted by the City and previously scheduled for the same time and place;

2.2.8 The proposed use or activity is prohibited by or inconsistent with the uses of the ball field;

2.2.9 The use or activity intended by the applicant would present an unreasonable danger to the health or safety of the applicant, or other users of the ball fields or the public;

2.2.10 The applicant has not complied or cannot comply with applicable permit requirements, ordinance, or rules concerning the use of the ball field;

2.2.11 The use or activity intended by the applicant is prohibited by law.

2.3 Any league using City ball fields must have a valid permit issued by the City. In accordance with Resolution No. 2004-195 of the City Council of the City and County of Broomfield, permits are revocable by the City and County Manager or a designee thereof at any time for failure to comply with these Rules for League Use of Ball Fields.

2.4 If the City and County is unable to provide maintenance or administrative services for a youth group or a permit is revoked by the City and County, the City and County shall reimburse the League on a pro-rated basis, a portion of any fees paid to the City and County.

### 3. BALL FIELD RESERVATION

3.1 The City shall designate teams as recreation or competitive teams in accordance with the definitions set forth in these rules. Ball fields will only be allocated by the City to one league of competitive teams and one league of recreation teams per sport, as defined in Exhibits A and B, unless the City Manager determines that good cause exists for more than one league to be recognized and allocated fields as a league in accordance with this policy. Scheduling of ball fields shall take place in the following order of priority:

3.1.1 City activities;

3.1.2 School district activities as may be called for in Intergovernmental Agreements;

3.1.3 League: Recreation teams that have a City permit for use of ball fields; and

3.1.4 League: Travel or Competitive teams that have a City permit for use of ball fields; and

3.1.5 League: Ball fields to accommodate the play of tournaments, camps or clinics sponsored by the League that have a City permit for use of ball fields.

3.1.6 Others: Private rentals that have a City permit for use of ball fields.

3.2 Leagues shall submit ball field reservation requests no later than 90 days before the first game of the season. With reservation request the League shall designate all special events, such as opening day, tournaments, etc. Leagues may only reserve fields for intra-league tournaments as part of their allotment as a League. Fields for tournaments involving multiple leagues or teams from other leagues must be reserved and paid for as private field rentals.

#### 4. BALL FIELD USE

Ball fields may only be used by permittees in accordance with these Rules for League Use of Ball Fields and all other applicable law.

#### 5. CODE OF CONDUCT

5.1 All permittees and their players, coaches, board members, employees, umpires/referees, parents and spectators agree to abide by and enforce the Code of Conduct (Exhibit C) or a Code of Conduct that is issued by a governing association of which said League is participating. This association's Code of Conduct will be reviewed by City and County staff for approval. Failure to enforce the Code of Conduct may result in loss of ball field reservation privileges for the League.

5.2 The City and County Manager or a designee thereof may suspend or revoke ball field reservation privileges at any time for Leagues not enforcing the Code of Conduct, violating any term or condition of the Rules, allowing any individual that may pose any threat to any player, coach, or umpire/referee, spectator, City staff person, to participate in the League, or for violating any other law. For any such suspension or revocation, the City and County Manager or a designee thereof, will make a good faith effort to provide any available evidence of the associated violation to the Permittee. Nothing in this section shall waive the provisions of section 17.9 of the Broomfield's Home Rule Charter regarding revocable permits. Individuals and the League shall be provided written notification by the City of reasons for such action.

5.3 The City and County Manager or a designee thereof may, with evidence of violations of the Code of Conduct, ban participation by individuals in Leagues. Individuals and the League shall be provided written notification by the City of reasons for such action.

5.4 The City and County Manager or a designee thereof may, with evidence, prohibit the participation of any person in the League who has been found to have violated the Code of Conduct or may otherwise be considered to pose any threat to any player, coach, umpire/referee, spectator or City staff. Individuals and the League shall be provided written notification by the City of reasons for such action.

## 6. LEAGUE REQUIREMENTS

6.1 Leagues shall submit a copy of general liability insurance carried by League, with City as a named insured, with ball field request and maintain such insurance through completion of season. The amount of such coverage shall be not less than \$150,000 for injury to one person in any single occurrence or less than \$600,000 for injury to two or more persons in any single occurrence.

6.2 Leagues shall submit League description, notice of League season and registration dates and places with application for permit.

6.3 Leagues shall conduct background checks for all League officials, board members, employees and coaches.

6.4 Leagues shall maintain a non-profit corporate status with the State of Colorado and submit proof of such corporate status to City at time of request for ball field reservation and conduct its business affairs in accordance with all state laws and regulations for nonprofit organizations. Leagues shall submit a current set of bylaws to the City and require that directors of the nonprofit corporation are elected on a regular basis by the parents of the youth participating in the league as stated in the League's by-laws.

6.5 Leagues shall submit to City, on an annual basis when requesting reservation of ball fields, summary report of all expenditures and revenues for the prior year. Said report shall indicate at a minimum, total amounts paid for: salaries, consulting fees, scholarships given, marketing fees, equipment, sponsorship of events, fees to the City and any other broad category of expenditures.

6.6 Leagues, when reserving ball fields, shall designate what number of ball fields will be reserved for Recreation games and what number of ball fields will be reserved for Competitive games.

6.7 Leagues that offer both Recreation and Competitive programs shall distribute fields between each division to ensure that both have an equal and fair allotment of fields including fields at the main complexes (i.e., Broomfield County Commons, Broomfield Community Park, Highland Park and Broomfield Industrial Park).

6.8 Leagues shall have their coaches, board members, and league officials attend at least once, a training offered by the City from the American Sports Effectiveness Program (ASEP), or an equivalent program if approved by the City. Leagues shall monitor all coaches, board members and League officials and require additional training when deemed appropriate by the League. The League shall make their best effort to have its coaches, board members and League officials attend ASEP training. The City shall work with the League to provide this training.

6.9 Leagues shall require that all League players, coaches, board members, employees, umpires/referees, parents and spectators agree to abide by the Code of Conduct included as Exhibit C (or other as approved by the City), and enforce the Code of Conduct. Failure to enforce the Code of Conduct may result in loss of ball field reservation privileges for the League.

6.10 Leagues shall provide for due process and discipline for any person in the League who has been found to have violated the Code of Conduct, Exhibit C (or other as approved by the City), or may otherwise be considered to pose any threat to any player, coach, umpire/referee, spectator or City staff.

6.11 Leagues shall submit a roster of all registered players, by team, within one month following the first game of the season. Said roster shall include name, address and phone numbers of players and designate which players live within and which players live outside of the corporate boundaries of The City. League shall be responsible for verification of residency information. Said roster must be submitted electronically in an Excel spreadsheet format.

League Registration: Leagues shall ensure that resident players have first priority in participating in their program. This shall be done in recreational leagues by establishing a published residents-only registration period of at least 30 days prior to opening registrations to non-residents. Competitive leagues will allow non-residents to participate only when needed to fill rosters. All residents participating in official advertised try-outs will be placed on teams.

6.12 Leagues shall submit ball field reservation requests no later than ninety (90) days before the first game of the season. With the reservation request, the League shall designate all special events, such as opening day, tournaments, etc.

6.13 Leagues shall submit a copy of League by-laws, Code of Conduct, any other rules and regulations, League objectives and list of League board members with request for ball field reservation and immediately notify City of any changes during season.

6.14 Leagues shall provide a telephone number to which inquiries regarding the League may be directed. Such phone number shall be capable of

receiving messages. An email address is desirable. If the League maintains a web site, the address of the web site and e-mail address shall also be provided.

6.15 Leagues shall obtain any and all necessary permits, licenses, or registrations required by City and County, State or Federal Governments for League activities and provide proof of all permits, licenses and registrations when and if requested by City.

6.16 Leagues shall respect and adhere to any and all laws, rules, or regulations of the City, State or Federal Government.

6.17 Leagues shall not provide markings on ball fields or hand drag or hand rake infields unless authorized by the City and only if those performing work on behalf of the League are approved by the City to perform such work.

6.18 Leagues shall not allow vehicles on ball fields or sidewalks at facilities unless explicitly approved by the City, except for medical emergencies when vehicles may enter the ball fields as necessary.

6.19 Leagues shall follow and enforce weather policies for use of ball fields as included in Exhibit D.

6.20 Leagues shall establish and follow a policy to vary areas of the ball fields used for practices so as to lessen the wear and tear on particular areas of the ball field.

6.21 Leagues shall reserve ball fields for League organized/sponsored tournaments, camps, clinics or similar activity. League may not reserve ball fields for tournaments, camps, clinics or similar activity, organized/sponsored by entity other than League. For those tournaments, camps, clinics or similar activity sponsored by others, a separate permit with the City shall be necessary.

6.22 Leagues shall distinguish between Recreation and Competitive team offerings in marketing and other informational programming.

6.23 Leagues shall not provide concession services, supplemental to those offered by City, unless provided with written approval. League retains responsibility to obtain all necessary permits, license and registrations to provide concessions.

6.24 Leagues shall request and receive approval of a revocable permit by the City prior to the installation of, or occupancy of, any structure on City property.

6.25 Leagues shall make all current, true, and accurate financial records of the League available for review within 30 days of a request.

6.26 Leagues shall make membership aware of the time and location of Board meetings.

6.27 Leagues shall not schedule or use ball fields closed by the City for repair or other posted reason.

6.28 Leagues shall ensure that trash is picked up from the ball field and dugout or bench area and placed in a trash container following each game.

6.29 Leagues shall respond in an appropriate and timely fashion to any reasonable requests for information or action made by the City and County Manager or a designee thereof.

6.30 Upon receipt and approval of all documentation requested by the City and County, the City and County shall acknowledge such receipt and designate said youth sports group as a provider of that sport for the youth of the City and County of Broomfield. This recognition shall be in form of an official letter from the City and County Manager or his designee.

7. FEES (or as otherwise determined by City Council resolution)

\$10 per resident player/per season and \$20 per non-resident player/per season. If requested, lining at \$16 per preparation for baseball and \$32 for football and soccer.

A season shall be any series of games or practices for which a separate registration or fee is required. Seasons typically last for 10 weeks.

Payment shall be submitted to the City within 30 days of the receipt of an invoice from the City. Said invoice shall be issued upon submittal of League roster to the City. Any disputed fee shall be paid within the 30-day period and adjusted, and a refund made to the League by the City, if required, upon resolution of the dispute.

No fee shall be due the City from the League for registrants receiving scholarship assistance because of a verified and substantiated economic need. The assistance must be in an amount equal to or greater than 50 percent of the registration fee and expenses charged registrants playing on the same team.

7.3 Fees for additional services:

Lining and dragging of ball fields (for non-recognized teams)	\$32 per field preparation
Additional cutting of grass	\$200 per field

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Placement of portable toilets (in addition to those typically in place)	\$58 per week
Provision of scoreboard controls (Leagues may purchase their own controllers for use with scoreboards.)	\$5 per field per day plus \$50 deposit per controller
Dragging or lining of infields beyond one per day	\$16 each per preparation

Said additional services shall be requested by the permittee in writing to the City at least 14 days prior to the day they are needed.

7.4 Basic Preparation of Fields for League Use

Basic preparation of Fields by the City for league use shall include:

- cutting of grass as needed;
- maintaining of backstops;
- maintaining of football goal posts;
- maintaining, and moving as necessary, full-size soccer goals (not including netting);
- dragging of infields on each day on which fields are reserved for games;
- lighting of fields.

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_

## **EXHIBIT A to Rules for League Use of Ball Fields**

### **Recreational Teams**

Recreation teams may display all or many of these characteristics:

#### **PARTICIPATION**

- All interested youth must be allowed to participate. Participation by the youth will be subject to signing up during the registration period designated by the League. There must also be enough players registered within that player's division to form a team. Assessments or mini-clinics may take place to establish team assignments.
- Rules will be established by the League and approved by City Recreation Services regarding mandatory playing time for all participants.
- Participant's team assignments typically differ each season to ensure that skill levels are balanced within each age group division.

#### **COACHES**

- Background checks are required for coaches.
- Coaches must attend ASEP training.
- The League shall make every effort to provide training for appropriate skill level and development.
- Coaches will provide an orientation session with all parents prior to the start of the season.

#### **TIME COMMITMENTS**

- Teams will have a maximum of three (3) contacts a week (Football has 4).
- Practices will be a maximum of 1.5 hours each, although 1 hour is preferred (Football is 2 hours).
- Teams will play a majority of games in Broomfield, provided the number of teams within a League allows for viable program play.
- Once teams have been established, recommended length of a season will be 10 weeks, consisting of 2 weeks of practice and 8 weeks of games and practices.
- Reasonable accommodation will be made to allow players to participate in other sports and activities.
- Players should not be unduly 'punished' for missing team activities in any way, including but not limited to reduced playing time, extra mandatory work, etc.

#### **EQUIPMENT**

- League shall require players to use safety equipment appropriate for the sport.

#### **FINANCES / COSTS**

- Scholarships will be available for families needing financial help.
- The program shall be structured and managed to minimize costs.

## PARENTS

- At least one parent should be assigned to monitor each practice throughout the season.
- A formal opportunity for feedback should be established between parents/children, coaches, and League administration in each sport. Additional contact information, including names and phone numbers of League Board Members, shall be provided to participants' parents/guardians.

## PROGRAM FOCUS

- Emphasis must be placed on fun, teaching fundamentals of the sport, sportsmanship, safety, and team play.
- Rules modifications that enhance the fun or recreational aspect of the sport are encouraged.

## LEAGUE ORGANIZATION

- Team skill levels shall be balanced within a 'division'.
- Divisions shall be formed based on age and/or grade in school.
- The League shall make every effort to coordinate its calendar with other sports and activities to allow participants to participate in those other sports and activities.
- Leagues are required to offer Parent Certification instruction.

## OFFICIATING

- The officiating program shall be designed to minimize costs.
- Use of youths as officials is encouraged for appropriate age groups in appropriate circumstances.

**EXHIBIT B to Rules for League Use of Ball Fields**  
**COMPETITIVE TEAMS**

Competitive teams may display all or many of these characteristics.

**TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF A COMPETITIVE YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM**

- Has tryouts (i.e., some applicants do not qualify for participation)
- Selects players on the basis of skill
- Travels to other communities to play
- Coaches may be paid
- Does not meet the minimum definition of a recreational program
- Has significant player contacts outside the primary season(s)
- Has higher costs
- Has a greater focus on tournaments
- Does not guarantee playing time for individual participants
- Has greater time commitment for players/parents

**EXHIBIT C to Rules for League Use of Ball Fields**  
**CODE OF CONDUCT**

Definitions

COACH - A person designated as team spokesperson. One who is either a player or non-player who has responsibilities for managing the team.

PLAYER - A person who actively participates in the game, whether offense, defense or sitting on the bench, and who is on the roster.

SPECTATOR - A person who comes out to watch the games for entertainment with no physical involvement.

SUSPENSION – A participant is not allowed to participate in League activities or be a spectator at league games for the specified period.

OFFICIAL - A person on the field to administer the official rules of the game.

PARTICIPANT – Any player, coach, league official, umpire, parent, or spectator.

PARTICIPATION - Any involvement in the league activities such as spectating, officiating, playing, coaching, or attending any non-sporting event.

BOARD MEMBER – A person who is a member of the League’s Board of Directors or governing body.

LEAGUE DIRECTOR - The appointed League representative or Board of Directors designated to organize and supervise the activity.

Code

1. NO PARTICIPANT SHALL: At any time lay a hand upon, shove, strike, or threaten Board member, game official, player, coach or spectator. Officials are required to suspend the player immediately from further play and report such players to the League Director. Such player shall remain suspended until his case has been considered by the League Director. Officials are required to banish the participant immediately from further involvement and report such participant to the League Director. Such participant shall remain banished until his case has been considered by the League’s Board of Directors, thus providing for due process.

MINIMUM PENALTY: Suspension from activities for one week, placed on probation for the remainder of the season.

MAXIMUM PENALTY: Suspension from all League activities for one year and probation for the following year plus at the beginning of the following year, the case is subject to review by the League's Board of Directors or by the State's governing body if the League is associated with a State organization.

2. NO PARTICIPANT SHALL: Refuse to abide by the official's decision. Officials are required to suspend the participant immediately from further participation and report such player to the League Director. Such participant shall remain suspended until his case has been considered by the League's Board of Directors. Officials are required to banish the participant immediately from further involvement and report such participant to the League Director. Such participant shall remain banished until his case has been considered by the League Director.

MINIMUM PENALTY: Placed on probation for the remainder of the season.

MAXIMUM PENALTY: Suspension for two weeks, placed on probation for the remainder of the season.

3. NO PARTICIPANT SHALL: Be guilty of obscene gestures or objectionable demonstrations of dissent at the official's decision. Penalty: The degree of infraction of this tenet of good sportsmanship shall, in the official's judgment, draw:

MINIMUM PENALTY: Warning by the official.

MAXIMUM PENALTY: Banishment from the game.

4. NO PARTICIPANT SHALL: Discuss with an official in any manner the decision reached by such official except for the manager or captain. Penalty: The degree of infraction of this tenet of good sportsmanship shall, in the official's judgement, draw:

MINIMUM PENALTY: Warning by the official.

MAXIMUM PENALTY: Banishment from the game.

5. NO PLAYER SHALL: Be guilty of using unnecessarily rough tactics (some sports are by nature more rough than other sports) in the play of the game against the body and person of an opposing player. Officials are required to suspend players immediately from further play and report such players to the League Director. Such player shall remain suspended until his case has been considered by the League's Board of Directors.

MINIMUM PENALTY: Placed on probation for remainder of the season.

MAXIMUM PENALTY: Suspension for two League games and placed on probation for the remainder of the season.

6. NO PARTICIPANT SHALL: Be guilty of physical attack as an aggressor upon any player, official or spectator at any time immediately before, during or after a practice, game, or other League activity. Officials are required to banish such participant. Such participant shall remain suspended until his case has been considered by the League's Board of Directors.

MINIMUM PENALTY: Suspension for two weeks, and placed on probation for remainder of the season.

MAXIMUM PENALTY: Suspension from all League activities for one year and placed on probation for the following year, plus at the beginning of the following year, his case is subject to review by the League's Board of Directors.

7. NO PARTICIPANT SHALL: Be guilty of an abusive verbal attack upon any player, official or spectator. The officials are required to banish any participant immediately from further play and report such participant to the League Director. Such participant shall remain suspended until his case has been considered by the League's Board of Directors.

MINIMUM PENALTY: Placed on probation the remainder of the season.

MAXIMUM PENALTY: Suspension for two weeks and placed on probation for the remainder of the season.

8. NO PARTICIPANT SHALL: Appear on the field of play under the influence of alcohol in such a manner as to not have control of his faculties to the extent that he is inclined to hurt himself or another participant.

MINIMUM PENALTY: Suspension for two weeks and placed on probation for the remainder of the season.

MAXIMUM PENALTY: Suspension for the remainder of the season.

9. NO PARTICIPANT SHALL: Smoke while coming off or going on the field of play, or while on the field of play.

MINIMUM PENALTY: Warning from the League Director

MAXIMUM PENALTY: Removal from the game by the League Director.

10. NO PARTICIPANT SHALL: Consume any alcoholic beverage while his game is being played.

MINIMUM PENALTY: Warning from the official or League Director.

MAXIMUM PENALTY: Banishment from the game by official or League Director

11. NO MEMBER OF ANY TEAM SHALL: Sit in the stands before or after their games and harass or heckle other teams or game officials.

MINIMUM PENALTY: Warning from the official or League Director.

MAXIMUM PENALTY: Removal from the facility and put on probation for two games.

### Enforcements

1. Any participant being placed on probation for the remainder of the season and reported again for violating the Code of Conduct may be suspended for the remainder of the season.
2. A suspended participant must remove themselves immediately from the vicinity of the contest area as designated by the League Director or official.
3. If a suspended participant does not remove themselves from the confines of the contest area, the League Director shall call the authorities.
4. One-minute clause: One minute shall be allowed for a suspended participant(s) to remove themselves from the designated contest area. If this time limit expires, the contest shall be forfeited to the opponents.
5. Any person on probation who violates the Code of Conduct will be placed on suspension until their case can be heard by the League's Board of Directors.

**Rev. 120704**

## **EXHIBIT D to Rules for League Use of Ball Fields**

City and County of Broomfield Recreation Services Department  
280 Lamar Street, Broomfield, CO 80020 303-464-5501

### **ATHLETIC FIELD WEATHER POLICY**

The following are guidelines that can be used to determine whether or not turf damage can occur:

- Standing water in goal mouths and midfield
- Snow covering
- Frost, when it is determined that damage to the fields may occur
- Where grass is sparse or field is worn badly and ground is saturated
- Standing water or puddling exists on field or surrounding area

In case of unusable conditions, athletic fields will be closed. **NO SNOW REMOVAL WILL BE PERMITTED.**

At anytime conditions exist that field damage will occur, games will be postponed.

Broomfield staff may determine that the frost level requires that field usage be delayed until the frost has melted. Staff will confer with a designated league representative in making such a determination.

There will be one primary contact for communications between Park Operations Division and the Recreation Services Division. All communications will be channeled through these two individuals. A back-up person or persons will be identified when the primary representative of either agency is unavailable.

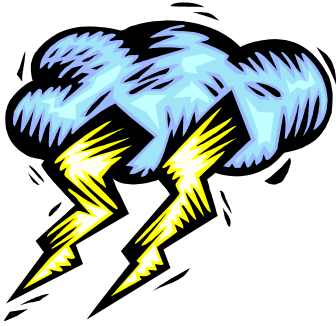
If the Field Supervisor in charge has any doubts that games shouldn't be played, he/she must contact the Park Operations Department and a recommendation will be made at that time.

No motorized vehicles will be allowed on any field or park under any conditions.

The City's Park Operations Division or Recreation Services Division has the ultimate authority to close the fields, if necessary, at any time due to weather conditions, unforeseen maintenance situations, or for the safety of its participants.

**YOUTH ASSOCIATIONS WILL BE HELD MONETARILY LIABLE FOR DAMAGE TO TURF AND IRRIGATION IF FIELDS ARE DAMAGED FROM USE WHILE IN VIOLATION OF THE ATHLETIC FIELD WEATHER POLICY LISTED ABOVE.**





## LIGHTNING PROCEDURES Athletic Fields

If lightning is in the area, use the **FLASH-TO-BANG** method to determine how far away the lightning is. This is the time from **SEEING** the stroke to **HEARING** the thunder. For each five seconds count, the lightning is one mile away. A count of 20 seconds = 4 miles away; 15 seconds = 3 miles away. At a count of **15 seconds**, the lightning is near enough to take immediate defensive actions.

### Outdoors

- Suspend play immediately.
- Avoid metal objects such as fences, bats, machinery motors, and power tools.
- Avoid water, tents, trees, hilltops, or open spaces.
- Have participants seek shelter in a building or in a truck, van or car with the windows completely shut.
- No one will be allowed to remain on the ball fields.
- If lightning should strike nearby:
  - Avoid direct contact with other people.
  - Get into a ditch or a shallow depression.
  - Remove all metal objects (baseball hats). Crouch down with feet together and hands on knees.

If a person is injured by lightning, call 911 and provide first aid. An injured person does not carry an electrical charge and can be safely handled. Call or send for help immediately.

THE EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER IS **911**

