

## **SFSC SEVERE WEATHER SAFETY POLICY**

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### ***To be used during any SFSC tournament events***

Adopted August 1, 2009

When thunder is heard, or a cloud-to-ground lightning bolt is seen, the thunderstorm is close enough to strike the location with lightning. Our action will be to take shelter immediately. Everyone will be instructed to clear the fields and go to their cars.

### **Advance Planning**

SFSC staff will have a documented plan in place, designated people who are responsible for monitoring the weather and a qualified person (tournament director, club President and/or other staff members) to make the decision to suspend play. In competitions, the local manager or official(s), if assigned, will make the decision to suspend play.

### **Monitoring Weather**

Local Managers during the tournament will be aware of any potential thunderstorms that may form during the competition; if an evacuation is needed, managers will also know how long it would take teams to get to their safest location. We will be monitoring the weather with a weather alert radio, or with lightning detection systems, or any other available means, is recommended.

### **Lightning Awareness**

Generally speaking, it is felt that anytime a cloud-to-ground strike of lightning can be seen, or thunder heard, risk is already present. Again, that will be the time to seek shelter.

### **Criteria for Suspending Play**

If thunder is heard, or lightning is seen hitting the ground, the thunderstorm is close enough to strike in our location. Thus, all games will be suspended for 30 minutes from the last thunder heard and, or lightning seen.

### **Evacuation Plan**

*Safe Areas:* All personnel, athletes and spectators will be cleared from the fields. A safe structure is in our plans to build for the near future at SFSC. In absence of that – athletes and spectators should go to any vehicle with a hard metal roof.

## **Resuming Activity**

Again, we will not resume play for at least 30 minutes from the last thunder, or lightening. Safety is our number one priority!