

Spring Best of Midwest Soccer Tournament  
(Severe Weather & Security Plans)

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**SEVERE WEATHER PLAN**

Spring Best of Midwest Soccer Tournament

This position paper provides our basic guidelines for dealing with lightning, windstorms, and other severe weather conditions. The peak season for severe weather occur in the United States between May and August, typically in the late afternoon and early evening.

1. Lightning

- a. We will utilize lightning detection equipment (at all times) and monitor the weather via radio when inclement weather is apparent at the site.
- b. Notice to evacuate the fields will be given by a sound horn and two way radio to field officials.
- c. Recognizing the threat
  - (1) Apply the 30-30 rule  
When you see lightning, count the time until you hear thunder.  
If this time is 30 seconds or less, seek proper shelter. If you can't see the lightning, just hearing the thunder is a good back-up rule. Wait 30 minutes or more after hearing the last thunder before leaving shelter.
  - (2) Know and heed warning systems and community rules.
  - (3) Know and apply the rules or procedures established by the competition authority.
  - (4) Minimize the risk of being struck  
Referees must protect the safety of all participants by stopping game activities quickly, so that participants and spectators may retire to a safer place before the lightning threat becomes significant. Remember, if you hear the thunder, you are within reach of lightning.
- d. Seeking proper shelter
  - (1) No place outside is safe near thunderstorms  
The best shelter is a large, fully enclosed, substantially constructed building. A vehicle with a solid metal roof and metal sides is a reasonable second choice.
- e. If there is no proper shelter, avoid the most dangerous locations:
  - (1) Higher elevations
  - (2) Wide open areas, including fields
  - (3) Tall isolated objects, such as trees, poles, or light posts
  - (4) Unprotected open buildings
  - (5) Rain shelters
  - (6) Bus stops
  - (7) Metal fences and metal bleachers
- f. If you cannot avoid these locations, crouch down on the balls of your feet, with your head tucked into your chest and your hands over your ears.

- e. If someone is hit  
All deaths from lightning result from cardiac arrest and stopped breathing. CPR and mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, respectively, are the recommended first aid. Referees should become involved in such assistance only if they have proper training.
- g. Remain calm. A calm official will often be able to prevent panic by young players.

**NO LIGHTNING SAFETY GUIDELINES WILL GIVE 100% GUARANTEED TOTAL SAFETY, BUT THESE STEPS WILL HELP YOU AVOID THE VAST MAJORITY OF LIGHTNING CASUALTIES.**

- 2. Other types of severe weather
  - a. Severe storms and tornadoes  
Obey local rules and heed warnings (meaning that a severe storm or tornado has been sighted.) Clear the field and seek proper shelter immediately – see above. Remember, according to standard weather warning terminology a “warning” represents a more immediately likely occurrence than a “watch.”
  - b. Hurricanes  
There is usually plenty of advance notice, so games will probably have been cancelled. Look for warning signs.
  - c. Hail  
Stop the game, clear the field, and seek proper shelter – see above.

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If there is a possibility of severe weather, the referee and assistant referees should discuss these guidelines in their pre-game meeting and ensure that all officials have a clear understanding of their respective duties. Referees in particular should clearly identify what assistance they expect in detecting and bringing to their immediate attention any dangerous weather conditions which may not be directly visible to them. If such conditions develop only after a match has begun, the referee should take the first stoppage opportunity to quickly review these matters with the assistant referees. A brief word to the coaches regarding steps the referee will take to ensure player safety in threatening weather conditions would be useful.

## SECURITY PLAN

### Spring Best of Midwest Soccer Tournament

Safety of all players, coaches, referees, and spectators (“Participants”) is the number one priority of the organizers of the Spring Best of the Midwest Soccer Tournament (“**BOMW**”). Because security issues/events cannot be predicted, the **BOMW** has developed this plan to ensure the safety of all. If at any time any Participant has questions regarding the security plan, please contact either the Tournament Director or a Site Coordinator. A Site Coordinator can be contacted at the Site Coordinator’s tent or by asking a Field Marshall, who is wearing a fluorescent vest.

In order to provide a secure environment for all Participants, the **BOMW** will follow the following security plan.

1. It is the expectation of the **BOMW** that each coach and manager will monitor their players, parents and spectators to promote a positive, friendly and incident free tournament.
2. Each field will have a designated Field Marshall wearing a fluorescent vest. If an incident occurs, the Field Marshall, in coordination with the referees, will attempt to resolve the issue.
3. If needed, the Field Marshall will involve the Site Coordinator/Tournament Director to resolve any incident. The Field Marshall is in contact with the Site Coordinator/Tournament Director at all times by radio.
4. If all of the above does not resolve the incident, a uniformed officer will be summoned for assistance.
5. Each **BOMW** site will have either (i) uniformed officers at the site at all times, and/or (ii) local police department patrolling regularly at each site.
6. If the uniformed officer at the site is unable to resolve the incident, law enforcement will be called and the Participants involved in the incident will be removed from the site.
7. All significant incidents will be reported by the **BOMW** Tournament Director to the Participant’s club and state association.