

# SEVERE WEATHER PLAN

## Jr. Irish Memorial Day Invitational Tournament

Safety of all players, coaches, referees, and spectators (“Participants”) is the number one priority of the Jr. Irish Soccer Club and the organizers of the Jr. Irish Memorial Day Invitational Tournament (“MDI”). Because severe weather is an event that cannot be predicted, the MDI has developed this plan to ensure the safety of all. If at any time any Participant has questions regarding the severe weather 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 any Field Marshall, who is wearing a fluorescent vest.

1. Monitoring.
  - A. A weather radio will be operating at each Site Coordinator’s tent. This will permit continuous monitoring of severe weather throughout the MDI.
  - B. The MDI has also established contacts with persons who will be monitoring Doppler in the event of severe weather threats.
  - C. Each Site Coordinator has a foghorn to alert Participants of any weather threat and for immediate game suspension/cancellation.
  - D. At each MDI site, the Site Coordinator is in contact with each Field Marshall by radio to quickly inform the Field Marshalls regarding any severe weather threat.
  
2. Lighting Threat.
  - A. If a Lighting Threat exists either upon visually observing the lighting or upon hearing thunder.
  - B. The Lighting Threat will continue to exist until the site has been free of thunder and visual observance of lighting for a period of 30 minutes.
  - C. If, during the existence of a Lighting Threat, lighting is seen or thunder is heard, a new 30 minute period will begin.
  
3. Other Severe Weather Threats.
  - A. A Severe Weather Threat (i.e., tornado) exists either when a severe weather **warning** has been issued covering the site, or, at the discretion of the Site Coordinator/Tournament Director, upon the issuance of a severe weather **watch**.
  
4. Procedure During Lighting Threat/Severe Weather Threat.
  - A. After a Lighting/Severe Weather Threat has been issued, the Site Coordinator will sound a foghorn and simultaneously contact each Field Marshall by radio.
  - B. Upon hearing the foghorn, all Participants shall immediately stop the game in session and seek appropriate shelter.

- C. Each Field Marshall will be responsible for notifying the head referee of the Lighting/Severe Weather Threat and to stop all games currently being played.
5. Participant's Responsibility During Lighting/Severe Weather Threat.
- A. Immediately seek proper shelter. No place outside is safe during a Lighting/Severe Weather Threat. The best place to seek shelter is in a large, fully enclosed substantially constructed building. If a building cannot be quickly located, a vehicle with a solid metal roof and metal sides is a reasonable second choice.
  - B. Participants should avoid the most dangerous locations, including: 1) higher elevations, 2) wide open areas, including soccer fields, 3) tall isolated objects, such as trees, poles or light posts, 4) unprotected open buildings, 5) rain shelters, 6) metal fences, and 7) metal bleachers.
6. If a building or vehicle cannot be located, Participants should either find a ravine or squat down, feet closely together, with your arms wrapped around your legs. Make sure all items containing metal (like umbrellas) are at least 15 feet away.
7. Please remain *calm*.
8. Ending Lighting/Severe Weather Threat.
- A. If i) no lighting has been seen or thunder heard for 30 consecutive minutes, or ii) the severe weather warning/watch has been lifted, the Site Coordinator/Tournament Director will blow the foghorn and contact the Field Marshalls to resume play.
9. Impact On Games/Standings.
- A. See Rule 6 in the Tournament Rules.

ALTHOUGH THESE GUIDELINES CANNOT GIVE 100% ASSURANCE OF SAFETY DURING LIGHTING/SEVERE WEATHER THREATS, THESE STEPS WILL HELP DECREASE THE CHANCE THAT A PARTICIPANT WILL BE HURT DURING SUCH THREATS.