

Babe Ruth Southeast Region Severe Weather Policy

The Southeast Region follows the policy set up by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).

Use this policy as a default. If the locality where the tournament is being played has policies or regulations that are more stringent, use them. Just make sure that everyone knows and understands the policy – MEET WITH THE UMPIRES.

When lightning is seen or thunder is heard, the field must be cleared with all participants and fans leaving the field area for a safe location. Safe locations can be under shelter at the concession or other facility area, or simply in a car.

Who makes the call? The home plate umpire, by rule, is the person authorized to stop a game for weather (or other) considerations.

Here is the rule:

4.00—Starting and Ending a Game.

4.01 Unless the home club shall have given previous notice that the game has been postponed or will be delayed in starting, the umpire, or umpires, shall enter the playing field five minutes before the hour set for the game to begin and proceed directly to home base where they shall be met by the managers of the opposing teams. In sequence—

(d) As soon as the home team's batting order is handed to the umpire-in-chief, the umpires are in charge of the playing field from that moment on.

Other personnel who can make the call are county or city personnel, the host league President, the Tournament Director, the assigned Southeast Region Representative, and anyone else identified by the host. The umpires need to know who these people are by having a meeting to introduce and discuss the procedure to be followed: Once lightning is seen or thunder is heard by an authorized person (other than the umpires), that person will notify the plate umpire that lightning has been seen or thunder has been heard and then the plate umpire will take the immediate appropriate action to clear the area.

This procedure is designed to eliminate the “I didn’t see any lightning” or “I didn’t hear thunder” arguments that sometimes occur.

Heat Index Policy:

Guidelines for the Host facility will be used. If the Host facility does not have guidelines, then the following will be used:

Typically, games are suspended when the Heat Index reaches 103. For liability reasons, this is usually monitored by the local county or city in charge of the complex. If not, or the complex is privately owned, then we require that the host monitor the Heat Index. All games

must be suspended when the Heat Index reaches 103 (feels like 103° F). Games can resume once the Heat Index drops below 103.

Leagues in “hot weather” areas usually schedule games early and (or) late in the day. In this case, no games are scheduled in the middle of the day if high heat is forecast.

IN ALL CASES, MAKE SURE THAT PEOPLE STAY HYDRATED.

The Southeast Region uses the NOAA Heat Index Chart and the OSHA NIOSH Heat Index iPhone and Android phone application. The OSHA NIOSH app clearly lets the user know what the current Heat Index is at the GPS location of the phone. It also provides the user with the projected future “Feels Like” temperatures hour by hour.

