

# District 8 Little League

## Severe Weather Policy



## **District 8 Little League Severe Weather Policy**

### **Regarding Practice:**

The coach in charge of the practice shall immediately suspend or cancel practice and players and coaches shall retreat to automobiles or a secure structure with four walls and a roof in the event of any of the following:

- (a) The sound of thunder
- (b) The sight of lightning

No players will be permitted to remain on the field or in open dugouts for any reason. Coaches are urged to monitor weather conditions and to use their best judgment regarding adverse weather. A coach may postpone or cancel practice at any time that he or she believes that it is unsafe to continue for any weather related reason. A practice may resume following suspension, at the discretion of the coach, if no thunder is heard or lightning is observed for a period of 20 minutes. Coaches are responsible for providing shelter to any members of the team who do not have a parent or other adult present at the field. Coaches should advise parents of this severe weather policy and should obtain contact information so that the coach can contact parents who leave their children at practice in the event of a suspension or cancellation. This policy is to the highest degree mandatory and shall be strictly enforced.

### **Regarding Games:**

Any Umpire shall immediately suspend play in any game if he or she observes either:

- (a) The sound of thunder
- (b) The sight of lightning

All players, coaches shall immediately retreat to automobiles or a secure structure with four walls and a roof when the umpire suspends the game. No players will be permitted to remain on the field or in open dugouts for any reason. Any subsequent lightening or thunder shall cause the 20 minute suspension to begin anew. At the discretion of the umpire, if no thunder is heard or lightening is observed for a period of 20 minutes, game may resume following suspension.

When lightning or thunder that strikes within twenty minutes of game time, any Umpire will suspend the start of the game for twenty minutes. The game may start following suspension, at the discretion of the Umpire, if no thunder is heard or lightning is observed for a period of 20 minutes.

The umpire has the ability to postpone play for the remainder of the day in the event that darkness will preclude resuming play after the 20 minute suspension. If the umpire reasonably believes that the weather system is severe or prolonged such that the umpire believes that it is unlikely that the game will be resumed after consulting weather forecasts, then the umpire has the ability to postpone play for the remainder of the day.

If lightening or thunder is observed/ heard by anyone to include umpires, players, coaches, spectators – the umpire needs to suspend the game and remove all players and coaches from the field. The umpire should check Little League Weatherbug App on their phone for current weather conditions including the App Spark for current lightening strikes within the last 30 minutes. The Umpire shall have the discretion to suspend or postpone play at any time that he or she believes that it is unsafe to continue for any weather related reason. A game may resume following suspension, at the discretion of the Umpire, if no

thunder is heard or lightning is observed for a period of 20 minutes. This policy is to the highest degree mandatory and shall be strictly enforced.

**The safety of our players, parents, coaches and spectators is our top priority and adherence to this policy is a major component of this priority.**

### **Rain Out Policy**

Due to limited field availability, every effort is made to play games on the days and at the times as they are scheduled. Typically, games will not be called until mid-late afternoon as coaches or league officials won't get there until the afternoon. If you have not heard from your team's manager, please assume the game is being played as scheduled. Many times a decision to cancel a game may be a "game time" decision. In all conditions the player's safety is paramount.

The procedure for canceling games prior to game time in the event of inclement weather is as follows:

If possible, a league official, manager, coach or other qualified individual will visit the fields during the day to determine field conditions.

The following factors will be considered when canceling games:

How much it has rained on the fields?

Is there any more rain expected and, if so, when?

Can we get the fields in playing condition by a game time?

If a game is cancelled, then the managers must contact their players and the District 8 UIC/Scheduler immediately. If you have not received a notification, your team should assume the game is being played and should arrive at the normally scheduled time or a forfeit will be awarded.

Once players and parents begin arriving at the field (approximately 30 minutes before game time), the coaches are in charge and has authority to suspend play and/or cancel games. Once the umpires have taken charge of the game, determining whether field conditions are safe for play will be solely at their discretion.

When a rainout occurs during the Spring season, every attempt to reschedule the game will be made. The game must be made up within 2 weeks following the rained out game. If the rainout occurs during the last 2 weeks of the regular season then the game will be played on the first available date.

The Home Team is responsible for contacting the UIC/Scheduler to reschedule the game. The Home Team shall inform the UIC/Scheduler no less than \_\_\_\_\_ days prior to the game's rescheduled date. If the UIC/Scheduler is not informed \_\_\_\_\_ days prior to the game's rescheduled date, then the District cannot guarantee that it will be able to furnish umpires for the game.

## **Weatherbug App (if you have a smart phone)**

To assist in the status of a pending or ongoing event, all league personnel, which includes umpires, coaches, managers, scorekeepers, parents and league officials, should download the Little League Weatherbug. The app is free, see description of the app below:

### Description

Stay safer with the new weather app for Little League®! Get exclusive Spark™ lightning alerts for your current and saved locations, on the field and off to help identify when to seek shelter from lightning threats. Also view heat indexes at field locations to enhance player safety.

Acquire important information to assist with the decision of canceling practice or calling the game by using real-time weather data and better forecasts. Be better protected with faster weather alerts!

- Spark™ Alerts – Unique and beautiful, Spark™ turns your Smartphone into a personal lightning detector. Get exclusive real-time, minute-by-minute, mile-by-mile lightning proximity alerts from our network. Check out our live lightning map to see lightning strikes near and far!
- Real-Time Pinpoint Forecasts for 2.6 Million Locations Worldwide – Accurate current, extended and hourly weather forecasts for your neighborhood and the field from the world's largest weather and lightning sensor networks. Know before thunderstorms arrive or it's too hot to play. ahead.
- Exclusive DTAs & Severe Weather Alerts – Minutes Matter. Our Dangerous Thunderstorm Alerts (DTAs) provide faster warnings to severe weather. Plus, get National Weather Service (NWS) warnings and watches to stay informed of severe weather conditions at all your current and saved locations.
- Enhanced Interactive Maps – Enjoy our enhanced maps with multiple layers such as Doppler radar, humidity, pressure, wind speed, high/low forecast, traffic, satellite imaging and more!

**Be prepared. Know Before™. Download the app used and loved by millions, Weatherbug!**

### Screenshots

[iPhone iPad](#)

iPod 11:19 AM South Williamsport, Pennsy...

Now 10 Day Hourly Details

Little League International WeatherBug  
Updated | 2:19 PM

58°F 40%

Feels Like 58°

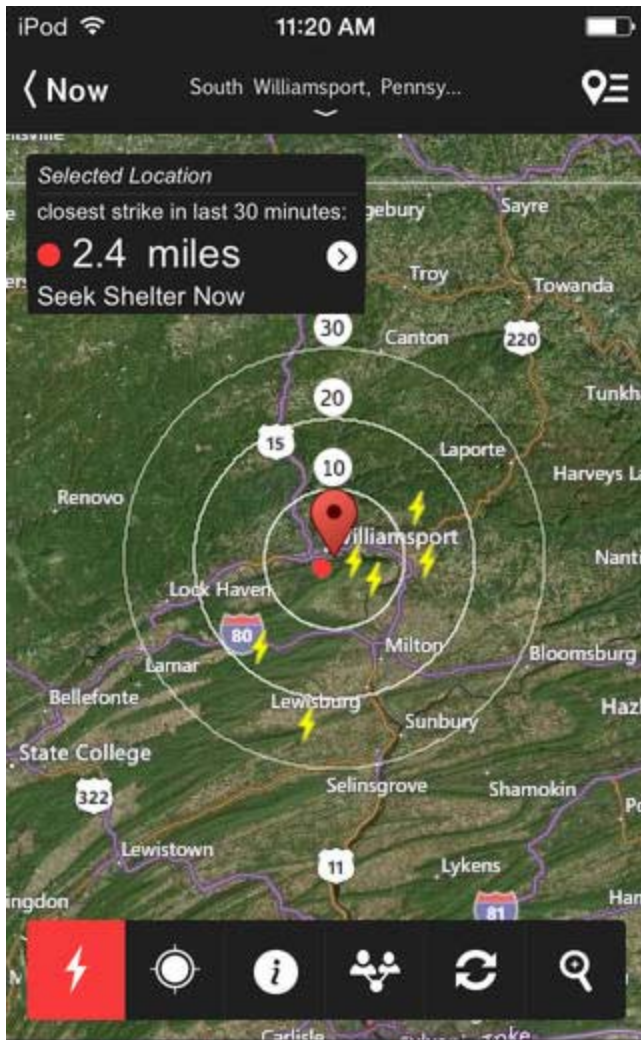


N 3 Gusts | W 17 Alerts

Spark Radar Today

58° 38° 70% Chance...

75 YEARS *Little League* BIG LEGACY



75 YEARS *Little League* BIG LEGACY