Tuskegee University Athletics Site Specific
Lightning Safety Protocol
2014-2015

The purpose of this document is to establish a written lightning safety policy for the Tuskegee University Sports Medicine Staff and Department of Athletics. It is imperative that all Tuskegee University athletic teams and personnel are aware of lightning hazards and the specific safety shelter for their venue. The following policy is based on the specific recommendations as stated by the National Athletic Training Association (NATA) Lightning Safety position statement and the updated guidelines from the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Sports Medicine Handbook.

In the event of lightning during an official sport practice or event, precautions must be taken to ensure the safety of both athletes and spectators. In any event, the specific sport Certified Athletic Trainer (ATC), in conjunction with the Athletic Department Staff and/or sport officials if necessary, will be responsible for monitoring inclement weather.

Due to considerable hazard and possibility of critical injury from lightning strikes, it is essential that the Tuskegee University Sports Medicine Staff have a clear protocol for each athletic venue in the event that lightning occurs. This protocol will clearly state the order of events that shall occur after receiving a WeatherBug lightning notification.

Our staff will utilize a mobile weather monitoring system to determine participation status. All Tuskegee University Athletic Training Staff will utilize the WeatherBug Monitoring System.

**WeatherBug Monitoring System:**

WeatherBug is a smartphone based application system that alerts users to inclement weather. The user can plot the location on the radar maps and set rules to notify when lightning occurs.

- Will show map of current local conditions via alerts/notifications including weather patterns, temperature, humidity, radar, satellite, forecast, and NWS bulletins by the hour.

In the event that the WeatherBug monitoring system is unavailable, Tuskegee Sports Medicine staff will utilize the Flash-to-Bang method:

To use the flash-to-bang method,

- Count the seconds from the time lightning is sighted to when the clap of thunder is heard.
- Divide this number by five (5) to obtain how far away in miles the lightning is occurring.
- For example, if an individual counts 30 seconds between seeing the flash and hearing the bang, 30 divided by 5 equals 6; therefore, the lightning flash is approximately 6 miles away.
- 8 miles will be the standard distance for postponement of all Tuskegee University athletic contests.
Tuskegee University Site Specific Lightning Safety Protocol continued

Once activities or events have been suspended, the ATC, with assistance of the Game officials if necessary, will use discretion in declaring return to participation. It is the NATA Position Statement recommendation to wait at least 30 minutes after the last visible strike before resuming activity. The use of the mobile monitoring system in tracking the weather pattern will be informative in making this decision.

WeatherBug Lightning Notification

- Monitor lightning activity via the WeatherBug lightning notification.
- 8 miles will be the standard distance for postponement of all Tuskegee University athletic contests.
- Game Field Supervisor is notified of lightning activity.

A member of the Athletic Training Staff will monitor the weather and notify the Game Field Supervisor and in the instance of practice, Head Coaches of the dangerous situation and recommend suspension of activity in the event of lightning.

During practice, the athletic trainer on site will inform the head coach of threatening lightning conditions in the Tuskegee area and contact ALL athletic teams who are practicing of the conditions. If an athletic trainer is not on site the head coach will assume responsibility of monitoring threatening lightning conditions and immediately instructing the athletes to proceed to the closest, safe, shelter.

Suspension of Activity
WeatherBug Lightning Notification reports lightning activity within the 8 mile range regardless of visible lightning.

Team Evacuation of Athletic Premises
The visiting team will be notified of the lightning shelter in the case of the situation being athletic environment being dangerous.

Return to Play
Once activities or events have been suspended, the ATC, with assistance of Event Management Staff and/or Game officials if necessary, will use discretion in declaring return to participation. It is the NATA Position Statement recommendation to wait at least 30 minutes after the last visible strike before resuming activity. The use of the online monitoring systems in tracking the weather pattern will be informative in making this decision. The 30 minute time frame will immediately start over with each additional lightning strike.
Team Evacuation Shelters

In addition to the policy for observing and tracking lightning during practices and events, the following are designated as Lightning Safe Shelters:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Athletic Facility</th>
<th>Evacuation Site</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland Leigh Abbott Memorial Alumni Stadium</td>
<td>Logan Hall / Football Locker Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pepsico Tennis Courts</td>
<td>Logan Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington Field (Baseball On-Campus Practice Field)</td>
<td>Logan Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuskegee YMCA Baseball Field (Off-Campus Practice Field)</td>
<td>Cars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross Country</td>
<td>Cars/Vans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuskegee University Softball Field</td>
<td>Daniel 'Chappie' James Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paterson Field - Montgomery</td>
<td>Baseball Locker Rooms</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Tuskegee University Lightning Safety Protocol will be reviewed on a yearly basis with pertinent Athletic Administration, Athletic Training Staff, and Management Staff. Revisions will be allowed as needed.

I understand the above Lightning Protocol enforced by the TU Sports Medicine Director of Sports Medicine. I am aware that this protocol may be updated as needed.

Printed Name of Coach(es) _____________________________      ________________________________

Signature of Coach(es) _________________________________________   ________________________________________

Date _________________________