



Leopards Referees

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ELECTRO HYDRO WORLD



With rugby being played in summer, lightning may impact on match completions and more importantly, safety of players and officials.

The guidelines have been compiled taking into consideration the guidelines below:

1.1. World Rugby Lightning Safety Guideline

1.2. SARU Guidelines for Dealing with Lightning

Summary of proposed actions:

Lightning detected:	Risk level:	Proposed action:
Within 20km of event	Considered at risk	Remain vigilant
Within 10 km of event	Considered at extreme risk	Seek shelter
Lightning siren sounds	Considered at extreme risk	Seek shelter

You are already at risk when the storm moves towards you at anything less than 20km away (*significant lightning threat extends outward from the base of a thunderstorm cloud to about 20 km*) and should be considering moving inwards, but they do say one must remain vigilant.

At 10 km you are at high risk and should be moving off the pitch without any hesitation.

If you have a lightning detection system, even better to make these decisions more effectively.

The Lightning app on your smartphone is only there for guidelines and can not be used in court when something happens, you therefore have to be vigilant of lighting even if the app shows it is still far away. The safety remains your decision/discretion.

Leopards Arrangement

1. If the match stops for longer than 30 minutes the game will be ended.
2. If play resumes after 15 minutes, the match will continue.
3. If it stops for a second time, and the 30-minute timeframe is exceeded the match will end.
4. If the match stops in the first half, the match will be replayed or 'declared as a Draw' depending on the decision by the Leagues Management Body or competition rules.
5. If the match is ended in the second half, the score will stand.

MATCH SUSPENSION/DELAY

- When the lightning strike is within 10 km of the venue, the Match Referee **must**:
 - Suspend the match or delay the kick-off or restart kick
 - Request all players and personnel to leave the playing enclosure to pre-identified safe areas as determined by the Match Manager
- Irrespective of the equipment or application utilised, the match referee must use verified information that the lightning has moved **further than 20 km away** from the venue before the Match Referee may resume the match.
- Verified information will be determined from the following methods:
 - Stadium Lightning detection devices used on the day
 - Hand-held device
 - Local meteorological services
 - 30/30 rule - For events/venues where applicable lightning devices and live data direct from local weather services is not available. The rule applied is as follows:
 - Seek shelter when there is **30 seconds** or less between the flash and the associated thunderclap
 - Safe to return to the field of play once a minimum of **30 minutes** after the final flash of lightning or clap of thunder has been seen/heard

MATCH ABANDONMENT

- Based on the evidence from lightning detection devices, the appointed 'lightning monitor', all local weather service communications and the guidelines provided for in clause 1, the decision to abandon the match lies with the Match Referee.
- The match will be abandoned if it is unable to start thirty (30) minutes from the scheduled kick-off time.
- In the interest of player welfare, a match suspended must restart within thirty (30) minutes from the time the match referee suspended the match.
 - If the match is unable to resume after half time, the thirty (30) minute time frame will commence immediately after half time
- The official timekeeper keeps time and informs the Match Manager and Match Referee once the thirty (30) minute mark is reached.

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