

Thunder/Lightning Policy

Relating to weather, the goals of the ALYBF are (1) to promote the **safety** of all participants and spectators, (2) attempt to “complete” games when practical, and (3) minimize inconvenience as much as possible. With these goals in mind, the following guidelines should be observed:

T-Ball and Pee-Wees: the **FIRST** incident of thunder or lightning will immediately cancel the remainder of any activity. Managers may elect to reschedule games with the agreement of league director.

Minor Leagues and Higher:

At the **FIRST** incident of thunder or lightning, all persons will immediately seek shelter and the game will be suspended. Scorebooks should note inning, outs, count on batter, and time.

The league director or umpire director (if present or accessible by phone) or the working senior umpire (in their absence), shall decide whether the remainder of the game will be **cancelled** OR if a 30-minute delay will be observed.

30-Minute Delay

A 30-minute waiting period MAY be observed in anticipation of resuming play, IF **ALL** the following conditions are evident:

- (1) There is access to adequate “cover” for all in attendance (including cars)
- (2) The game has NOT reached “official complete” status, as defined by league rules
- (3) The likelihood appears that threatening conditions will dissipate
- (4) The waiting period will NOT extend beyond the start time of the next scheduled game.

Once the “30 minute clock” is started, if further thunder/lightning activity occurs, the clock may be restarted. However, such restarts shall not result in a total time delay of more than 45 minutes.

Play can only resume (1) after a continuous period of 30 minutes passes without further incident of thunder or lightning, and will continue so long as (2) the field is otherwise playable and (3) sufficient light exists.

Games which cannot be restarted, satisfying **ALL** preceding criteria, will be resumed/replayed at a later date in accordance with applicable league rules.

Finish of a Delayed Game

If a game is first delayed and then resumes, and is to be followed by another scheduled game, no new inning may be started after the originally scheduled starting time of the next game.

If another game is not scheduled, play may continue for the total amount of time allowed by rule, not counting the delay, so long as other conditions permit and no new inning starts after 10:30 PM.

In either event, any game shortened by any time limitation will be “official” so long as minimum inning requirements have been met according to league rule.

Communication and Decisions

The ALYBF encourages the cooperation of league officials, umpires, and managers when making these determinations. However, final authority for such decisions rests with the league director and umpire director, or in their absence, the working senior umpire on hand. Assumptions should not be made by anyone, and all waiting periods, possible restarts, and/or cancellations should be clearly communicated to all involved. Consideration should be given to the age and experience of all those involved.