

## National Referee Program Manual – 2012 Edition

### **AYSO Severe Weather Policy:**

The National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL) currently recommends that all individuals should leave the game site and reach a safe structure or location when lightning is within 6 miles.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Lightning Safety Guidelines indicate that since lightning can strike out of a clear blue sky as far away as ten miles from a rain storm, when the “Flash-to-Bang” count is thirty seconds or less, everyone should leave the game site to a safe location.

The United States Soccer Federation (USSF) position is that if you can hear thunder you are within reach of lightning and that referees must protect the safety of all participants by stopping game activities quickly, so that participants and spectators may retire to a safer place before the lightning threat becomes significant. Applying the 30-30 rule is recommended and to wait thirty minutes or more after hearing the last thunder before leaving shelter.

In view of the above, the following is the position of the AYSO National Referee Commission regarding severe weather:

**It is said that lightning can strike from a clear blue sky within a ten-mile radius of a storm. It is therefore strongly recommended that practices and games be terminated immediately upon hearing thunder or seeing lightning. “If you can see it - flee it; if you can hear it – clear it.”**

Instruct referees not to wait until a thunderstorm is near to stop the game. The game needs to be stopped while the storm is miles away so that the field can be cleared of people before the lightning is overhead.