



Reg No: 2015 / 358866 / 08

Bidvest Wanderers Cricket Stadium

LIGHTNING POLICY (INTERIM)
(REVISED: DEC 2019)
CENTRAL GAUTENG LIONS CRICKET UMPIRES ASSOCIATION
(CGLCUA)

Introduction & historical background:

Even though there is no evidence of an increase in the number of lightning strike related injuries or deaths the issue is currently receiving a lot of interest and widespread attention as never seen before and rightly so.

Lightning is a life threatening weather phenomenon, an act of God that cannot be predicted. Any steps that will subsequently be taken will be of a reactive nature of what was experienced.

Numerous action steps can however be taken as preventative measures to lessen the chance of injury or death caused by lightning strikes. It must be borne in mind that before a cricket match commences the field of play is to be handed over to the umpires. The umpires then take full responsibility of the playing field and the match itself until the conclusion of that match. The umpires will then apply the Laws of Cricket in order to manage the actual cricket match. The umpires are the sole judges of the conditions of ground, weather or light or exceptional circumstances, as per Laws of cricket (Law 2.7.1 – Fitness for play).

Any referral to umpires in this directive is to include both captains of the respective teams in the absence of official umpires.

Awareness of umpires:

Umpires are to take note of, and monitor changing weather conditions, or inclement weather. Cloud build-up and movement must also be monitored. Umpires are to take note of lightning detectors at match venues. **However lightning detectors are merely indicators.** Where possible the umpires may utilize an electronic application called “Lightning Alarm” to assist them in making an informed decision. However electronic devices may not be taken onto the field of play while play is in progress. Captains and scorers must also utilize this “app” and must inform umpires of approaching lightning. The umpires remain the sole judges of the conditions of ground weather or light or exceptional circumstances, as per Laws of cricket (Law 2.7.1 – Fitness for play).

Action steps to be taken by umpires in the event of lightning:

Umpires will apply a policy of ZERO TOLLERANCE towards the presence of lightning.

There are basically two action steps that the umpires will take:

1. At the **first instance** when the umpires become aware of the presence of lightning by either:
 - **visibly seeing it, or**
 - **hearing the thunder,****they must immediately suspend play or not allow play to commence or resume.** Players and umpires must immediately exit the field of play to a place of safety.
2. The umpires will only allow play to resume after,
 - a continuous lightning free period of 30 minutes has elapsed, or
 - if according to “Lightning Alarm” the lightning has moved to more than thirty (30) kilometres away from the field of play and continues to move away further, other conditions permitting.

When play is suspended due to lightning it cannot be expected of any person to cover the pitch or any part of the playing area.
This revised interim policy comes into effect on 2020-01-01 for all matches played under the auspices of CGL Cricket.

Date: 2019-12-12

LM ENGELBRECHT

PRESIDENT: CGLCUA

COMPILED BY LOURENS ENGELBRECHT