

QUANTICO MIDDLE /HIGH SCHOOL

Thunder / Lightning Policy:

Decisions regarding the suspension and resumption of practices or games will be based on the following guidelines. Coaches are required to follow the following policy.

1. All QM/HS head coaches are required to monitor local weather conditions before and during practices and games.
2. On the first day of practice, the head coach should explain to all assistant coaches and the team what measures will be taken if severe weather strikes.
3. When inclement weather is a possibility, the coach should explain our policy to the officials and opposing coaches as early as possible
4. QM/HS coaches will instruct visiting teams to abide by Quantico Middle/ High School policy.
5. All practices and games will be immediately suspended during thunder and lightning storms or when the potential for such a storm exists. The key word is potential: these storms travel very quickly. The sound of thunder is an indicator of a storm.
6. If thunder is heard and/or lightning is seen, coaches must stop play or practice immediately and must move all team members to an inside shelter (school, building or bus). Plan ahead if the shelter is at a distance. **It is not necessary for a game official to make this decision.**
7. The athletic site shall be cleared of all persons immediately by QM/HS event administration.
8. Play or practice may not resume until the potential danger of the storm has passed. Storms can bounce from hill to hill and return with little warning. Keep track of time. No team will return to the field until 30 minutes after thunder is last heard, or lightning is last seen.
9. **MOST IMPORTANT:** The coach must keep in mind the safety of the student athlete. Weather and field conditions are the coach's main concern before he/she places the team back on the field. The contest officials are only guides, and if the coach does not agree with their judgment to resume suspended play, he /she should be cautious and not be persuaded to play.