

## **Lightning Safety Policy for Soccer Activities**

### **Purpose:**

To ensure the safety of all players, coaches, referees, and spectators during soccer activities in the event of nearby lightning activity.

### **1. Scope**

This policy applies to all outdoor soccer practices, games, and events organized or sanctioned by River Valley Futbol Club.

### **2. Lightning Detection**

- Lightning activity will be monitored using a reliable weather alert system, app (such as WeatherBug, Weather Channel, or similar), or lightning detection service capable of identifying strikes within a 6-mile radius.

### **3. Evacuation Protocol**

- **Immediate Suspension:** All soccer activities must be **immediately suspended** when lightning is detected within a 6-mile radius.
- **Evacuation:** All players, coaches, officials, and spectators must **exit the field and seek safe shelter** immediately.
  - **Acceptable shelter includes:** fully enclosed buildings with wiring and plumbing or hard-top vehicles with windows closed.
  - **Unacceptable shelter includes:** tents, pavilions, metal structures, or under trees.

### **4. "30-Minute Rule"**

- Activities must remain suspended until **30 minutes** have passed **since the last detected lightning strike within a 6-mile radius**.
- If another strike occurs during the waiting period, the 30-minute clock **restarts**.

### **5. Authority and Enforcement**

- The game official or designated field safety officer has the authority to suspend activities.
- Failure to comply with evacuation instructions may result in disciplinary action or removal from the premises.

## **6. Communication**

- All teams, coaches, and event staff must be informed of this policy prior to the start of the season or event.
- Coaches are responsible for ensuring their players understand and comply with evacuation procedures.