

# Durango Baseball & Softball

## Weather and Lightning Safety Policy

**Revision Date:** April 14, 2026

**Approved by:** DBS Board of Directors

### 1. Purpose

This policy establishes clear procedures to protect players, coaches, officials, and spectators from weather-related hazards. It ensures consistent decision-making regarding field closures and lightning safety across all DBS facilities.

### 2. Field Closure Procedures

#### **Authority:**

Field conditions are evaluated by DBS officials or designated coaches in coordination with Durango Parks & Recreation. Safety takes precedence over scheduling. (Practices will not be rescheduled; games will be, if the schedule allows.)

#### **Criteria for Closure:**

- Standing water on the infield or base paths
- Mud or slippery turf compromising footing
- Mud cakes or clings to shoes
- Active rainfall that prevents safe play or damages the playing surfaces
- Poor visibility due to fog or heavy precipitation
- Excessive heat and/or drought conditions
- Any condition deemed unsafe by the field manager or umpire

#### **Communication:**

- Closures are announced via Crossbar, email, and text alerts at least 30 minutes before scheduled activities.
- Coaches must not override official closure notices.

### 3. Lightning Safety Protocol

#### **Immediate Suspension:**

Play or practice must stop **immediately** when lightning is seen or thunder is heard.

#### **Distance Rule (30–30 Rule):**

- If lightning has been seen and Thunder heard, Coaches and Umpires are asked to use a lightning strike Phone App to determine if the strike was within 8 miles. If the strike was within an 8-mile radius, all participants must evacuate to a **fully enclosed building or vehicle**. Dugouts, tents, and pavilions are **not safe shelters** (If thunder occurs within **30 seconds** of lightning, the storm is close enough to strike).
- Activities may resume **only after 30 minutes** have passed since the last Lightning strike within 8 miles.

#### **Monitoring:**

A designated coach or official monitors radar or lightning detection apps.

If lightning is detected within **8 miles**, play is suspended.

#### **Medical Response:**

Call 911 immediately if a lightning strike occurs.

Begin CPR if the victim is unresponsive and not breathing.

Lightning App Suggestion: My Lightning Tracker and Alerts

### 4. Resumption of Play

- Field inspections must confirm safe footing and playable conditions.
- The 30-minute lightning rule must be fully observed before resuming.
- Coaches may not resume play without official clearance.