

# NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

## **REPORT OF THE REVIEW & OFFICIATING COMMITTEE**

The following items are to be discussed by the Review & Officiating Committee, and ultimately shared with the full Board of Directors during the NCHSAA Board of Directors meeting:

### **Committee Members:**

Sandy George, Chairperson  
David Gentry, Vice-Chair  
Ronnie Mendenhall  
Scarlett Steinert  
Roger Morton  
Wendell Hall

### **Staff:**

Mark Dreibelbis

## **AGENDA ITEMS:**

### **1. Incident and Penalty Report (to be provided at the board meeting)**

#### **a. Recommendation:**

Review and approve the comprehensive listing of incidents per school. Fine(s) assessment will be included in this report.

#### **b. Rationale:**

To detail the incidents and fines

#### **c. Budget Impact:**

Varies; Schools are responsible for payment of fines

#### **d. Educational Impact:**

Serves to educate and enforce the regulations of the NCHSAA Handbook

#### **e. Equity Impact:**

Consistent for all schools and programs

#### **f. Effective Date:**

Current date to payment of fines and reconciling school/sport account

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Denied \_\_\_\_\_

Tabled \_\_\_\_\_

### **2. Ejection Report (to be provided at the board meeting)**

#### **a. Recommendation:**

To view and approve the comprehensive breakdown of ejections per school and sport. The report includes a summary of percentages of year-to-date versus previous year(s) infractions. A breakdown by sport is also included in this summary

- b. Rationale:  
To track the number of ejections in review of the NCHSAA Ejection Policy and its enforcement
- c. Budget Impact:  
None
- d. Educational Impact:  
Serves to reinforce the sportsmanship initiatives of the NCHSAA and its ongoing effort to provide quality athletic competition for positive educational outcomes
- e. Equity Impact:  
Consistent for all schools and programs
- f. Effective Date:  
Current date

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Denied \_\_\_\_\_ Tabled \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Officials' Registration fee \$6**

- a. Recommendation:  
Increase the annual NCHSAA Registration fee \$6 per sport
- b. Rationale:  
Funding will cover first class mailings of all rule books and help with move to ArbiterSports registration data base
- c. Budget Impact:  
Fees will go towards advancement of our registration system and overall service to the membership
- d. Educational Impact:  
Rule books will get to officials more timely in association with registration deadline and payments
- e. Equity Impact:  
Same for all officials, all sports
- f. Effective Date:  
May 15, 2015

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Denied \_\_\_\_\_ Tabled \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Approve the Southern Coalition for Social Justice as Appeal Process for Officials (Attachment R/O 1)**

- a. Recommendation:  
Accept the "Certificate of Relief" for review and appeal of eligibility for suspended officials (felony related)
- b. Rationale:  
A "Certificate of Relief" may be obtained by the petitioner if he or she has been

convicted of no more than one Class G, H or I felony convictions or misdemeanor convictions of any class in one court session

c. Budget Impact:

A "Certificate of Relief" bars a judicial or administrative action alleging lack of due care by a person who, knowing of the certificate, hired, retained, licensed, leased to, admitted to a school or program, or otherwise transacted business or engaged in activity with the recipient of the certificate

d. Educational Impact:

America is the land of second chances. By presenting a "Certificate of Relief" to a person, they are showing admittance to the mistake, taking responsibility for the mistake, and are willing to work hard to be a productive member of society

e. Equity Impact:

Very difficult to get a "Certificate of Relief." The person must apply to the same court where they were originally sentenced at least 12 months after completion of their sentence, which includes any probation and the payment of all fines and fees. In addition, the court will only grant the Certificate in cases where the evidence shows the person is making a good faith effort to find gainful employment and be a productive member of society. Consequently, only a select group of people are successful in obtaining Certificates of Relief

f. Effective Date:

January 1, 2016

g. Point(s) of Discussion:

- i. Enacted by the General Assembly in 2011. G.S. 15A-173.2
- ii. Patterned after the Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Denied \_\_\_\_\_ Tabled \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Approve Regional Supervisors**

a. Recommendation:

Keith Shields/Northwest Baseball; Mike Tester/Northwest Softball; Mike Parnell/Cape Fear Baseball; Billy Sebrell/Cape Fear Softball; Michael Nye/Jacksonville Baseball; Roy Turner/Eastern Basketball; Jack Embree/East Central Wrestling; Tim Sappenfield/West Central Wrestling

b. Rationale:

Recommendations came from search committees as set by the Selection Process for new Regional Supervisors

c. Budget Impact:

None

d. Educational Impact:

Separating baseball and softball Regional Supervisors in the Northwest and Cape Fear Associations, and splitting Central Wrestling should lead to increased training, observation, evaluation and training/development

- e. Equity Impact:  
None
- f. Effective Date:  
December 4, 2015

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Denied \_\_\_\_\_ Tabled \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Lightning Policy -- Pre-game Protocol (Attachment R/O 2)**

- a. Recommendation:  
Discussion only; NO ACTION
- b. Rationale:  
Review current protocol, NFHS rule code, administrative/game management expectation. North Carolina is the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading state nationally relative to deaths by lightning. Concern of the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee in regards to consistent implementation of NFHS Lightning Policy by all parties involved in game management
- c. Budget Impact:  
Potential weather monitoring devices
- d. Educational Impact:  
Safety and welfare of participants and patrons
- e. Equity Impact:  
None
- f. Effective Date:  
N/A -- discussion item

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Denied \_\_\_\_\_ Tabled \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Student Services**

- a. Recommendation:  
Discussion only; NO ACTION
- b. Point(s) of Discussion:
  - i. Student Leadership Conference -- April 16, 2016 @ DoubleTree Hotel in Cary
  - ii. Fall Coach & Captain Retreat -- 133 attendees from 19 schools
  - iii. DREAM Team Trainings -- CMS wanting to do DREAM Teams in all schools based on initiative of Butler High School DREAM Team -- in conjunction with Independence HS and Myers Park HS
  - iv. Wilkes County Coaches Workshop
  - v. Illinois AD Conference -- presented "Eliminating Sexual Violence Through Coaching Language"

- vi. State Legislature funding granted for 2015-16
- vii. Student Athlete Advisory Council -- attended NFHS Student Leadership Conference in Indianapolis
- viii. Student Athlete Summer Institute (SASI) -- East Carolina, Pembroke, Mt. Olive, UNCA, Elon
- ix. Project Unify -- contact Chiquana Dancy

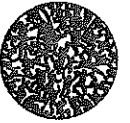
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Denied \_\_\_\_\_

Tabled \_\_\_\_\_

1415 West Highway 54, Suite 101 P: 919-323-3380  
 Durham, NC 27707 F: 919-323-3942

## SOUTHERN COALITION for SOCIAL JUSTICE



### Certificate of Relief FAQ for Employers and Landlords

*You are receiving this document because an applicant for a job or apartment has a Certificate of Relief that they would like for you to consider in your employment or leasing decision. If you have other questions not answered by this FAQ sheet, please contact Attorney Daryl Atkinson at the Southern Coalition for Social Justice at (919) 323-3380 x 153 or [darylatkinson@southerncoalition.org](mailto:darylatkinson@southerncoalition.org) for more information.*

#### What is a Certificate of Relief?

A Certificate of Relief is a judicial order meant to give people a second chance after a criminal conviction. More specifically, Certificates of Relief can help people with criminal records show potential employers, landlords, and others that the court believes they have transformed into upstanding citizens capable of making a positive contribution to society.

#### Who is eligible to receive a Certificate of Relief?

Certificates of Relief are only available to a person convicted of a nonviolent lower-level crime who is considered unlikely to reoffend. Therefore, only people with a single interaction with the criminal justice system are eligible for a Certificate. For example, a person with two misdemeanor marijuana possession convictions from 2009 and 2011 would not be eligible.

#### Is it easy to get a Certificate of Relief?

No. In order to obtain the Certificate the person must apply to the same court where they were originally convicted, 12 months after the completion of their sentence, which includes any probation and the payment of all fines and fees. In addition, the court will only grant the Certificate in cases where the evidence shows the person is making a good faith effort to find gainful employment and be a productive member of society. Consequently, only a select group of people are successful in obtaining Certificates of Relief.

#### \* What does a Certificate of Relief mean for you as an Employer or Landlord? \*

North Carolina law (G.S. 15A-173.5) "provides that a Certificate of Relief bars a judicial or administrative action alleging lack of due care by a person who, knowing of the Certificate of Relief, hired, retained, licensed, leased to, admitted to a school or program, or otherwise transacted business or engaged in activity with the recipient of the Certificate." In other words, you as an employer or landlord **cannot be sued for negligence** by your other employees, tenants, or customers for your decision to hire or lease to a person with a criminal conviction if that person had a Certificate of Relief at the time of your hiring or leasing decision.

#### Why should you hire or rent to a person with a criminal conviction?

America is the land of second chances. Everyone makes mistakes. By presenting you with a Certificate of Relief, this person is showing you that they admit their mistakes, take responsibility for them, and are willing to work hard to be a productive member of society.

\* NCGS §15A-173.5 - Reliance on order or Certificate of Relief as evidence of due care

# STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

File No.

County

In The General Court Of Justice

☒ District ☐ Superior Court Division

## IN THE MATTER OF

Name And Address Of Petitioner (Type Or Print)

## CERTIFICATE OF RELIEF PETITION AND ORDER

Race Sex Date Of Birth Last Four Digits Of SSN

G.S. 15A-173.1, -173.2, -173.3, -173.4, -173.5, -173.6

### I. OFFENSE(S)

File No.	Date Of Conviction	General Statute And Offense Description	Class	Date Of Completion Of Sentence

### II. PETITION

I hereby petition for a Certificate of Relief under Article 6 of Chapter 15A of the General Statutes and certify as follows:

- I was convicted of no more than two Class G, H or I felonies or misdemeanors in one session of court, as shown above.
- I have no other convictions for a felony or misdemeanor other than a traffic violation.
- At least twelve (12) months have passed since I served all of the active time, if any, imposed for each offense, and since I completed any period of probation, post-release supervision, or parole related to the offense that was required by State law or court order.
- ☒ a. am engaged in, or seeking to engage in, the following lawful occupation or activity: (list employment, training, education, or rehabilitative program) seeking to improve employment prospects.  
☒ b. have the following lawful source of support: (list source of support) family support
- I have complied with all requirements of my sentence, including any terms of probation.
- ☒ a. am not in violation of the terms of any criminal sentence.  
☐ b. am in violation of the terms of a criminal sentence, but the failure to comply is justified, excused, involuntary, or insubstantial because (explain justification)
- No criminal charges are currently pending against me.
- Granting the petition would not pose an unreasonable risk to the safety or welfare of the public or any individual.
- If I filed a previous petition for a Certificate of Relief that was denied, at least twelve (12) months have passed since the denial, which was entered on (date). I have remedied any defects in my previous petition and have complied with any conditions for reapplication set by the Court in that (explain)

**NOTE TO PETITIONER:** You may submit additional materials that support the claims made in this petition at the hearing. Please note that any additional materials you submit may become part of the official court record, which is open to the public.

Date Signature Of Petitioner

### III. SERVICE ON DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**NOTE TO CLERK:** "When a petition [for a Certificate of Relief] is filed under G.S. 15A-173.2 . . . the court shall notify the district attorney at least three weeks before the hearing on the matter." G.S. 15A-173.4(a). No hearing may be held on this matter until at least three (3) weeks after notice to the District Attorney.

**NOTE TO DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** "The district attorney shall have the right to appear and be heard at any proceeding relating to the issuance . . . of the Certificate of Relief." G.S. 15A-173.4(c). "The victim of the underlying offense for which a Certificate of Relief is sought may appear and be heard, or may file a statement for consideration by the court, in a proceeding for issuance . . . of the Certificate of Relief. Notification to the victim shall be made through the Victim Witness Coordinator in the office of the district attorney. G.S. 15A-173.6.

The undersigned accepts service of this petition on behalf of the Office of the District Attorney:

Date Signature Of Person Accepting Service  
Name Of Person Accepting Service (Type Or Print) Title Of Person Accepting Service (Type Or Print)

**CAUTION TO PETITIONER:** A Certificate of Relief is **NOT** an expunction or a pardon. It does **NOT** relieve you of the collateral sanctions listed in G.S. 15A-173.3, sanctions imposed by the North Carolina Constitution, sanctions imposed by federal law, or any sanctions remain in place as identified in Order No. 3 on Side Two. Your Certificate of Relief may be revoked if you are convicted of a new fee or misdemeanor other than a traffic violation, or if you are found to have made any material misrepresentation in your petition.



## [Relief from a Criminal Conviction Guide \(/node/2588\)](#)

[Home \(/node/2588\)](#) [Contact Us \(/node/2593\)](#)

### Certificates of Relief

This part reviews North Carolina's certificate-of-relief procedure, enacted by the General Assembly in 2011. See [S.L. 2011-265](#) (<http://www.ncleg.net/EnactedLegislation/SessionLaws/PDF/2011-2012/SL2011-265.pdf>) (H 641). The procedure is patterned after the [Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act](#) (<http://www.uniformlaws.org/Act.aspx?title=Collateral%20Consequences%20of%20Conviction%20Act>) (Uniform Act), enacted in 2009 and amended in 2010 by the Uniform Law Commission (also known as the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws). Through the Uniform Act, the Uniform Law Commission recommended that states allow people who have been convicted of a crime to apply for relief from collateral consequences that could impede their reintegration into society. North Carolina's procedure, in Article 6 of G.S. Chapter 15A (G.S. 15A-173.1 through 15A-173.6), is effective December 1, 2011, meaning that it is available to people with criminal convictions who meet the requirements for relief whether their offenses or convictions occurred before or after December 1, 2011.

The basic requirements for obtaining relief, contained in G.S. 15A-173.2, appear in [Table 18 \(#table18\)](#). The petitioner may obtain a certificate if he or she has been convicted of no more than two Class G, H, or I felony convictions or misdemeanor convictions of any class in one session of court. This language allows a certificate to be obtained for up to two convictions for any combination of the permissible conviction classes (for example, one Class H felony and one misdemeanor or two Class I felonies).

If granted, a certificate of relief applies to two types of collateral consequences: "collateral sanctions," defined as penalties, disabilities, or disqualifications imposed by operation of law; and "disqualifications," defined as penalties that an agency, official, or court may impose based on the conviction. In other words, collateral sanctions are those that are mandatory in the absence of a certificate of relief (or other form of relief), while disqualifications are those that a board or commission would have the discretion to impose. See also [Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act, Section 2 Comment](#) (<http://www.uniformlaws.org/Act.aspx?title=Collateral%20Consequences%20of%20Conviction%20Act>) (describing collateral sanctions as mandatory and collateral disqualifications as discretionary). A certificate of relief relieves the person of all mandatory collateral sanctions except those listed in G.S. 15A-173.3 (for example, sex offender registration requirements and firearm disqualifications under G.S. Chapter 14, Article 54A (The Felony Firearms Act) and Article 54B (Concealed Handgun Permit)); those imposed by the North Carolina Constitution or federal law (for example, the state constitutional ban on holding the office of sheriff if previously convicted of a felony and federal bans on federally assisted housing and food stamp benefits for some convictions); and those specifically excluded in the certificate. A certificate of relief does not bar an entity from imposing discretionary disqualifications based on the conviction, but the entity may consider the certificate favorably in deciding whether to impose the disqualification. A certificate of relief does not result in an expunction or pardon of the conviction; a person must use other mechanisms to the extent available to obtain those forms of relief.

A certificate of relief also has the effect of limiting the liability of a person who works with someone who received a certificate of relief. G.S. 15A-173.5 provides that a certificate of relief bars a judicial or administrative action alleging lack of due care by a person who, knowing of the certificate of relief, hired, retained, licensed, leased to, admitted to a school or program, or otherwise transacted business or engaged in activity with the recipient of the certificate.

**Table 18 (#refTable18). Certificates of Relief**

Matters Subject to Certificate of Relief	Principal Restrictions on Issuance of Certificate of Relief	Applicable Statutes and Forms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any combination of two or fewer Class G, H, or I felony or misdemeanor convictions in one session of court</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No other convictions for a felony or misdemeanor other than for a traffic violation</li> <li>Person is not in violation of any criminal sentence or violation is justified, excused, involuntary, or insubstantial</li> <li>No pending criminal charges</li> <li>Person is engaged in or</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">G.S. 15A-173.2</a> (<a href="http://www.ncleg.net/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/HTML/BySection/Chapter_15A/GS_15A-173.2.html">http://www.ncleg.net/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/HTML/BySection/Chapter_15A/GS_15A-173.2.html</a>)</li> <li><a href="#">AOC-CR-273</a> (<a href="http://www.nccourts.org/Forms/Documents/1273.pdf">http://www.nccourts.org/Forms/Documents/1273.pdf</a>) (June 2012)</li> </ul>



## [Collateral Consequences Assessment Tool \(C-CAT\) \(/\)](#)

[Home \(/\)](#) [Contact Us \(/contact\)](#)

### Deny athletic agent certificate of registration (Any felony)

#### [Index card \(#\)](#)

##### Characteristics of consequence

**Action taken:** Deny

**Implementation:**

Discretionary( [1 \(javascript:void\(0\)\)](#) )

**Restoration procedure:** None specified

**Initial decision maker:** Secretary of State

**Duration:** Indefinite

**Duration start:** Date of conviction

##### Characteristics of crime

**Criminal class:** Any felony

**Disposition:** Conviction

#### [Consequence \(#\)](#)

G.S. 78C-90(b)(1) (<http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/gascripts/statutes/statutelookup.pl?statute=78C-90>) -

Deny athletic agent certificate of registration

[View all triggering offenses \(/node/373\)](#)

#### [Notes \(#\)](#)

1. A criminal conviction alone may not be an automatic bar. Users should refer to the relevant statute for a list of factors the initial decision is authorized or required to consider when deciding to impose or not the consequence.

[Log in](#)

## [Collateral Consequences Assessment Tool \(C-CAT\) \(/\)](#)

[Home \(/\)](#) [Contact Us \(/contact\)](#)

### Deny or revoke residential school personnel position (Any felony or misdemeanor that demonstrates a lack of integrity or honesty to fulfill duties)

#### [Index card \(#\)](#)

##### Characteristics of consequence

**Action taken:** Deny, Revoke**Implementation:** Discretionary**Restoration procedure:** None specified**Initial decision maker:** Secretary of Health and Human Services**Duration:** Indefinite**Duration start:** Date of conviction

##### Characteristics of crime

**Criminal class:** Any felony or any misdemeanor**Disposition:** Conviction

#### [Consequence \(#\)](#)

G.S. 143B-146.16(a)(1) (<http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/gascripts/statutes/statutelookup.pl?statute=143B-146.16>) - Deny or revoke residential school personnel position

[View all triggering offenses \(/node/407\)](#)[Log in](#)

## [Collateral Consequences Assessment Tool \(C-CAT\) \(/\)](#)

[Home \(/\)](#) [Contact Us \(/contact\)](#)

**Deny, reprimand, restrict, suspend or revoke electrology license, or instructor certificate, or school permit (Any felony or misdemeanor that directly relates to the practice of electrolysis)**

### [Index card \(#\)](#)

#### Characteristics of consequence

**Action taken:** Deny, Reprimand, Restrict, Revoke, Suspend

**Implementation:** Discretionary

**Restoration procedure:** Yes

**Initial decision maker:** North Carolina Board of Electrolysis Examiners

**Duration:** Indefinite

**Duration start:** Not specified

#### Characteristics of crime

**Criminal class:** Any felony or any misdemeanor

**Disposition:** Conviction

### [Consequence \(#\)](#)

G.S. 88A-21 (<http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/gascripts/statutes/statutelookup.pl?statute=88A-21>) - Deny, reprimand, restrict, suspend or revoke electrology license, or instructor certificate, or school permit

[View all triggering offenses \(/node/118\)](#)

[Log in](#)

## [Collateral Consequences Assessment Tool \(C-CAT\) \(/\)](#)

[Home \(/\)](#) [Contact Us \(/contact\)](#)

### **Deny, revoke, suspend license of professional public school employee (Any crime adversely affecting the ability of the person to perform their professional functions in an effective manner)**

#### [Index card \(#\)](#)

##### Characteristics of consequence

**Action taken:** Deny, Revoke, Suspend**Implementation:** Discretionary**Restoration procedure:** Yes**Initial decision maker:** Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Board of Education**Duration:** Discretionary**Duration start:** Not specified

##### Characteristics of crime

**Criminal class:** Any felony or misdemeanor**Disposition:** Conviction**Additional preconditions:** Specific finding by board/commission

#### [Consequence \(#\)](#)

[16 NCAC 06C.0312 \(http://ncrules.state.nc.us/lookUpRule.asp?title=16&chapter=06C&number=0312\)](http://ncrules.state.nc.us/lookUpRule.asp?title=16&chapter=06C&number=0312)

- Deny, revoke, suspend license of professional public school employee

[View all triggering offenses \(/node/1293\)](#)[Log in](#)

## LIGHTNING POLICY

Lightning may be the most frequently encountered severe-storm hazard endangering physically active people each year. Millions of lightning flashes strike the ground annually in the United States, causing deaths and hundreds of injuries. Three quarters of all lightning casualties occur between May and September, and nearly four fifths occur between 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM, which coincides with the hours for most athletic or recreational activities. Additionally, lightning casualties from sports and recreational activities have risen alarmingly in recent decades.<sup>1</sup> For more than a decade North Carolina is among the top states reporting the most annual deaths attributable to lightning.

Pitt County Schools recommends a proactive approach to lightning safety, including the implementation of a lightning-safety policy that identifies safe locations for shelter from the lightning hazard.

It is recommended that outdoor activities be postponed or suspended if a thunderstorm appears imminent before or during activity. Be observant of sky conditions for locally developing or approaching storms that have not yet produced lightning. Prior to any outdoor activity, monitor local weather for notification of thunderstorm watches or warnings.

### Event Management following the Development of Severe Weather:

1. Each school should formulate a plan delineating who is responsible (by name or role) for the decision to remove a team from a field or event site in the event of dangerous lightning activity.<sup>2</sup> For the purposes of enforcing this policy, this person(s) is designated as **Scene Command**.
2. A senior school administrator or Athletic Trainer may function as Scene Command during *practice* and have the final decision regarding clearing the field. In the absence of either of these persons, coaching staff should remove athletes from the outdoor facility when a sign of severe weather is detected.
3. It is suggested that the Athletic Director or a senior school administrator, or a designee of these individuals, function as Scene Command and have the final decision regarding clearing the field during *contests*.
4. Before each contest, Scene Command should designate another individual or him/herself as the **designated weather watcher**. The designated weather watcher actively looks for signs of threatening weather. During contests, the weather watcher should not be a coach, working field game official, or Athletic Trainer as these persons have other responsibilities distracting them from careful, close, and constant monitoring of weather conditions. In the absence of another designee, the Athletic Director of the host team is the designated weather watcher. The weather watcher will need to communicate expeditiously with Scene Command when severe weather is detected.
5. Prior to the start of a contest, Scene Command should make a reasonable effort to record the name of the person functioning as Scene Command and the name of the designated weather watcher in the home scorer's book, on the announcer's roster, or in a suitable alternative location.
6. All persons in attendance to an event should function as weather watchers. They should watch for signs of threatening weather and notify a member of the chain of command before severe weather becomes dangerous.
7. Prior to a game, Scene Command should greet the officials, explain the means to monitor lightning, and offer to notify the officials during the game if there is imminent danger.



8. The weather can be monitored using best available resources that may include mobile applications such as subscription or non-subscription weather monitoring applications, weather updates from the National Weather Service, or local radar. Subscription weather monitoring applications are preferred as these provide real-time accurate weather information for each site.
9. Downloadable applications on mobile devices ("app's") such as Weatherbug's Spark may be useful but users should carefully study the app because all weather app's are not created the same. Users should answer at least two key questions about the app to know if it is a smart/safe choice: a) Is the app reporting weather data in real-time (this is the benefit of paid subscription app's) or what is the delay?, and b) From where is the reported weather data captured and is that accurate for the current location?
10. The criteria for postponement and resumption of activities will adhere to current recommendations. If weather is monitored with app's (e.g., Weatherbug's Spark), persons should move from the outdoors when a lightning strike occurs no closer than 10 miles away. Because all spectators will need time to move to a safer location, Scene Command should consider making the call to postpone activity sooner in certain situations including large crowds or distant safer locations. Additionally, storms can move very fast so it is advisable to also react to threatening signs of a storm such as increasing wind, darkening skies, and thunder. In the absence of using valid weather app's or as a more conservative approach, movement from the outdoors should begin when the first threat of a thunderstorm, whether lightning flash or thunder, is detected. This guideline is summarized with a popular mantra: "See it [lightning], flee it. Hear it [thunder], clear it."
11. Once it is determined that there is a danger of severe weather, Scene Command will notify the field game official or head coach for the purposes of the game official signaling to stop play. Scene Command should continue efforts to immediately remove all athletes, coaches, support staff from the outdoor facility and arrange for a public announcement to remove all spectators from the outdoor facility. An example of a public service announcement message is:  
"Severe weather has been detected in our area. All spectators, competitors, and personnel should go inside the nearest school building as quickly as possible. A vehicle with a metal roof (not a convertible) and the windows rolled up is a safe alternative. DO NOT take shelter under trees or other tall objects. DO NOT remain on, under, or near bleachers or fences."<sup>2</sup>
12. The call to suspend play must occur promptly in order for all persons in attendance, including spectators, to be completely within a previously identified safer location. Access to these locations must be assured after normal operating hours. Prior knowledge of these locations by team coaches and event management personnel is also critical.
13. The designated weather watcher should continuously monitor the storm and communicate the storm's movement to Scene Command. When thirty (30) minutes have passed since dangerous weather has been detected (since the last flash of lightning or the last sound of thunder) and no lightning strike has occurred within 10 miles, the Scene Command can make the decision for persons to return to the outdoors. It is important to note the 30-minute clock is re-started each time lightning is seen or thunder heard.
14. Scene Command should make the notification when it is safe to return outdoors. This is known as the "All Clear." Examples of ways to notify large groups of the "All Clear" include (not limited to): using a series of three or more air horn blasts; megaphone announcement; or issuing a public service announcement over a loudspeaker.
15. All persons have the right to leave an athletic site, without repercussion or penalty, in order to seek a safe structure or location if they feel they are in danger.<sup>2</sup>
16. Long before hazardous weather, safe locations should be identified<sup>2</sup> and this information made available to competitors, staff, and spectators.  
Safe locations are described as:

- A substantial, fully enclosed building that contains wiring and plumbing. Access to these buildings should be assured prior to the start of any activity.
- Fully enclosed metal vehicles, such as buses, vans and cars

Unsafe locations include:

- Most places termed *shelters*, such as picnic, park, sun, and rain shelters and storage sheds
- Locations with open areas such as dugouts, tents, refreshment stands and open garages
- Open breezeways, awnings, alcoves, open press boxes and concession stands with open windows
- Tall objects such as trees, poles, and elevated areas should be avoided. Large bodies of water, including swimming pools, are unsafe areas
- If phone communication is necessary, use mobile phones and not land-based lines.

17. Safe locations for each venue are as follows:

**Venue 1**

- 1.
- 2.

**Venue 2**

- 1.
- 2.

**Venue 3**

- 1.
- 2.

<sup>1</sup> Walsh, K et al. NATA Position Statement on Lightning Safety for Athletics. *JAT*. 2013; 48 (2): 258-270.

Revised August 2013

<sup>2</sup> Cole S & Bennett B. Virginia High School League Lightning Safety Report. Retrieved August 21, 2013 from <http://www.vhsl.org/doc/upload/smac-lightning-safety-report.pdf>

# LIGHTNING PROCEDURES

## "30-30 RULE"

**Begin counting when you see the "flash" of lightning and stop when you hear the associated "bang" of thunder. Divide the number by 5. This will tell you how many miles away the lightning is. When the "flash-to-bang" approaches 30 seconds, this means the lightning is within 6 miles and the next strike could conceivably be at your location. Wait 30 minutes after**

**the last sound of thunder or flash of lightning before returning to the field. This will ensure that the lightning is far enough away so that a strike is unlikely. The count must start over at each subsequent lightning flash or thunder bang.**



**Mark Dreibelbis**

*Associate Commissioner, AIC/CIC*



Supervisor of Officials

Director of Student Services



North Carolina High School Athletic Association

[www.nchsaa.org](http://www.nchsaa.org)

**SEVERE WEATHER / HEAT ILLNESS POLICY FOR ACTIONS BY OFFICIALS AT OUTDOOR SPORTS**

The Referee (Lead Official / Crew Chief) shall stop play in a contest or scrimmage at the first sound of lightning or thunder at the site. The playing site shall be cleared immediately of all persons. The contest or scrimmage may be resumed following a three (3) minute warm-up period, no sooner than thirty (30) minutes after the last sight of lightning or the last sound of thunder.

If the severe weather is of great length or intensity, the Referee (Lead Official / Crew Chief) shall work cooperatively with home contest administration on decisions related to the resumption of play. Contest officials are encouraged to learn the weather forecast prior to contest time and to work cooperatively with home contest administration prior to making weather-related decisions. Safety of the public and participants is the most important factor in any decision of this type.

The Referee (Lead Official / Crew Chief) shall work cooperatively with home contest administration on decisions related to the KMA Heat Illness Plan. Final authority for this decision rests within home contest administration.



## Mark Dreibelbis

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**From:** Ernie Yarbrough <ery@ghsa.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 15, 2015 11:57 AM  
**To:** Mark Dreibelbis  
**Subject:** Re: HELP!!!

Mark My Friend,

Our policy is very non-specific to distance. We recommend to our schools to use 3-7 miles, but many schools/counties have their own restrictions. But, here is what we have in our White Book:\

### 2.93 "Interrupted Games"

(a) The GHSA requires lightning detectors at all outdoor athletic activities.

(1) When the lightning detector indicates a dangerous situation, the game manager will notify the head official. At that point, the official will suspend play and all participants will proceed to a place of safety.

(2) When the detector indicates that is safe to resume play, the contest may resume in accordance with the procedures published in the sport specific NFHS Rules Book.

NOTE: If the game officials see lightning before being notified by game management, they may suspend play.

Sorry I don't have more.

On 10/15/2015 11:13 AM, Mark Dreibelbis wrote:

Gentlemen, and Bruce (take it, you are retiring!):

Our Sports Medicine Advisory Board is on steroids regarding lightning protocol...pre-game between game administration and officials.

If you have a policy, would you send to me and give me permission to steal so the SMAC alligators can latch onto someone else's backside?

Hey Bruce...I may be back in the lead for stupid plays...player will not tuck his shirttail in and is being a jerk...BJ sends him off the field...only problem is he does not kill the clock...this is the free safety who is leaving the field as the ball is snapped...guess where the receiver runs his route for a quick 6 points???

VB official announces himself to captains and coaches as "Mean Mike" and wonders why they complained about his attitude. Soccer official had alcohol on his breath. Had to go to Wilmington to try to find my son who is having some issues and went to all the bars he frequents...cost me \$135 in unpaid bar tabs as I was looking for him. Bench clearing brawl with ejections and teams being made ineligible for Playoffs. Hot tub has a leak. Dog has a bladder infection and is peeing all over the house. Our site for Basketball Playoffs was just changed and now I don't have anywhere to play our "Super Saturday" games. And last, but not least, my wife hid all the liquor in the house!!!

Have a great day...and thanks for helping me with lightning protocol.



**Mark Dreibelbis**

*Associate Commissioner, AIC/CIC*

Supervisor of Officials

Director of Student Services

