



LIONS

DP World Wanderers Stadium

Gerloff Drive, Illovo

Johannesburg

PO Box 55309, Northlands, 2115

Date: 1st September 2025

LIGHTNING POLICY

(REVISED: 1st September 2025)

Disclaimer: This policy is intended as a general guide for the safety of all officials, players and spectators and does not constitute legal advice.

Note: Any referral to umpires in this directive shall include the team captains, in the absence of official umpires.

Umpires will apply a policy of ZERO TOLERANCE towards lightning, regardless of the state of the match.

Purpose of the policy:

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for umpires to follow in the event of lightning or the threat of lightning during cricket matches played under the auspices of the Central Gauteng Lions Cricket union.

The policy aims to prioritize the safety of all individuals involved in the match, including players, officials, support staff and spectators.

Definitions:

- **Lightning:** A natural electrical discharge that occurs between a storm cloud and the ground, or between storm clouds.
- **Thunder:** Sound produced by the rapid expansion of air caused by lightning.
- **Lightning Detection System (LDS):** A network of devices used to detect the occurrence of lightning in the surrounding area.

Lightning Detection:

The umpires are to take note of and monitor changing weather conditions.

Warning signs of approaching lightning include cloud cover increase, thickening and darkening of clouds, distant low rumblings and flashes of light.

Umpires are to take note of LDS at match venues and must utilise the approved LDS electronic Apps to assist them in making an informed decision. They must be ready to take prompt action as soon as either the LDS or actual sight of lightning demand it.

As electronic devices may not be taken onto the field of play while play is in progress, the scorers, and team managers or coaches, must assist by monitoring LDS and its Apps, informing the umpires of approaching lightning as necessary.

*Honorary Life President: A. Ball, Honorary Life Vice-Presidents: C. Mitchley, S. Wadvalla, R.D. Hope
President: P.I. Coetzee, Vice-President: R.A. Burne*

It is important to note that LDS systems are fallible and should be used in conjunction with visual and auditory indicators.

Nevertheless, the umpires remain the sole judges of the conditions of ground, weather, light and exceptional circumstances, as per the Laws of cricket (Law 2.7.1 - Fitness for play). It should be noted that the umpires are in control of the field from the time it is handed over to them by the ground staff until the match has finished. During this time, and with the assistance of the club or venue responsible person, no persons other than players, match officials and ground staff will be allowed onto the field.

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

At the first instance when the umpires become aware of the presence of lightning by:

- seeing a lightning strike, or
- hearing thunder overhead, or
- being informed by the official scorers or another directly related person (e.g. a Coach or Manager) that according to the LDS, lightning is closer than twenty (20) kilometres away,

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.

Safety of Personnel:

All individuals on the field, including players, umpires, and support staff, as well as spectators, should be informed of the suspension of play and directed to a safe location, such as a designated shelter or building (Brick or Concrete).

When play is suspended due to the presence of lightning, it cannot be expected of any person to cover the pitch or playing area.

However, if a timeous call is made and there is time to conduct the aforementioned operations safely, then this may be done under the direction of the Umpires.

Resumption of Play:

Waiting Period:

Play shall not resume until a continuous period of 30 minutes has passed without any lightning activity in the vicinity of a twenty (20) kilometre radius from the venue.

Continuous Assessment:

After the waiting period mentioned above, the umpires should reassess the situation and determine if it is safe to resume play.

LDS:

When an LDS system (if installed) has indicated that lightning has moved, and continues to move away from the venue, beyond a 20 kilometre radius from it, play may be resumed if the umpires together have determined that the conditions are safe for the resumption of play.

LDS and protocols at venue:

Umpires must determine, in consultation with the ground authority or home club executive, of any applicable procedures pertaining to LDS technology installed at the venue of play.

If the match venue has a fixed LDS and supporting lightning protocols the umpires will follow the system and protocols as implemented unless the system stated before is less than adequate, in which case visual and auditory indicators will take precedence.

Approved Lightning App to be used:

1. Lightning Alarm

Club and Venue responsibilities.

Emergency Procedures and Response:

Every club and / or venue must have a dedicated person appointed with the responsibility for any emergency procedures that might be required during the match. This person must have readily available the contact numbers for local medical services in the event of a lightning strike on a player, official or spectator or any other medical emergency.

Spectator Safety and Responsibility:

The person(s), club or entity in control of the venue is responsible for ensuring the safety of players, officials and spectators during a suspension in play due to the presence of lightning.

Communication:

It is imperative that communication is clear and concise during a match suspension as well as before the start of play.

Communication of these lightning procedures with the team Captains, relevant match officials and support staff is vital to ensure there is no confusion and that everyone is aware of the procedures in place if play needs to be suspended due to the threat of lightning.

This policy has been revised and will be put into effect on [\(Insert Approval Date\)](#) for all matches played under the auspices of the Central Gauteng Lions Cricket Union.

Ashraf Stemmet

Ashraf Stemmet

Signed by Ashraf Stemmet,
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