**FRIENDSWOOD HIGH SCHOOL/JUNIOR HIGH LIGHTNING DETECTION SAFETY POLICY**

Both the High School and Junior High are equipped with a lightning detection system. This is an automatic system that will sound an audible alert when lightning is detected in the area. It is not controlled by a person.

1. When lightning is detected within the set radius from the lightning detection system a horn will sound for approximately twenty seconds and a light on the system will flash.
2. As soon as the lightning warning system enables, everyone MUST remove themselves from their outdoor activity and seek safe shelter. (See Safe Shelter Section)
3. The flashing light will then continue for thirty minutes after the last lightning strike within an eight-mile radius; all fields must remain cleared through the duration of the activated warning system.
4. When the warning alarm sounds three short, steady tones and the flashing light goes out it is permissible to reenter the field.
5. Under absolutely no circumstances is anyone allowed back on the field prior to the lightning warning system disabling itself.
6. This system may reactivate at any time throughout the duration that the fields are open depending on the storm activity and its whereabouts. There are no false alarms. It is recommended that you download and monitor the countdown clock for your campus.
7. All protective measures must be adhered to at all times.

If you hear thunder as a storm approaches and the alarm system has not yet activated, it is recommended that you use this leeway time to organize your group to safety. Lightning has been known to strike up to ten miles away.

For events held off campus, we will use the 30 second flash to bang rule.

1. Suspension of Play
   1. If you see lightning and it is 30 seconds or less when you hear thunder than you must immediately suspend practice/play and seek safe shelter.
   2. A count of 30 seconds between flash and bang puts lightning at a distance of 6 miles.
   3. If thunder is audible, then it is within a 10-mile radius from your location.
2. Resumption of Play
   1. Play may resume only when lightning or thunder has not been detected for 30 minutes. Every time lightning or thunder is detected, the clock restarts.

**Safe Shelter**

Primary Location- Any location normally occupied or frequently used by people. For example – a building with plumbing and/or electrical wiring that acts as a ground. Avoid using the shower, plumbing facilities, and land line phones during a thunderstorm.

Secondary Location- In the absence of a sturdy, frequently inhabited building, any vehicle with a hard metal room (not a convertible or golf cart) and rolled up windows can provide a measure of safety. Avoid contact with the sides of the vehicle, as it is the metal roof no the tires that dissipate a lightning strike.

If a staff Athletic trainer is present at practices, they will be the one to enforce this policy and monitor the lightning and thunder. In the vent that a staff Athletic Trainer is not present, it is the responsibility of the coach of that sport or team to enforce this policy and monitor the lightning.

**Spectators and Fans**

It is the responsibility of the administer on duty to remove the spectators and fans from the stands. If an administer is not present, the staff athletic trainer and/or coach are responsible.