

CLIFTON GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE

The Clifton Girls' Softball Field is next to Clifton Football Stadium which maintains a Lightning Detection System. The system is managed by the Board of Education.

An effective lightning safety program is dependent on cooperation by field users, as well as properly functioning technology. It is important to understand how the system works and what to do when there is a threat of lightning.

Here is a summary about the Lightning Detection System to educate the public about the system and current policies.

How the Lightning Detection System Works

- The stadium is equipped with a rotating amber beacon (flashing light) and a siren.
- When there is no danger of lightning the light will be **blue**.
- When the system detects a lightning strike is approaching, the light will turn amber. At this time coaches, umpires and administrators should not that lightning is quickly approaching and play may need to be halted quickly.
- When lightning danger is upon us the light will turn red, the siren will sound for 15 seconds and the red light will illuminate and rotate. The red light will remain on for the duration of the alert.
- At this time all players and spectators are to seek shelter either in cars or within the fieldhouse. **NO ONE IS TO REMAIN OUTSIDE** at this time.
- Once 30 minutes have passed with no lightning detected in the 10 mile area, an "all clear" signal will be broadcast.

Important: Do not assume it is safe to return to the field after 30 minutes. The system tracks ALL lightning strikes within a 10- mile radius, but only activates after the first strike. There may be multiple consecutive strikes occurring. The system will only sound the "all clear" 30 minutes after the LAST lightning strike. In other words, the "all clear" may sound well beyond 30 minutes from activation. Wait until the "all- clear" signal is given before returning to the field.

- The "all clear" signal consists of three 5-second alerts on the siren and the red light will shut off. The light will return to either amber or blue
- The system is active from 8am until 10pm, consistent with the hours the fields are open for use.
- The Lightning Detection System is an additional tool to provide warning of potential lightning strikes. If the system does not activate but you see lightning or hear thunder, clear the field immediately and seek shelter.

What to Do When the System is Activated

- While the alert is active the field is closed and users should seek immediate shelter. A safe shelter includes any building (grounded or with plumbing) or any vehicle with a metal roof.
- Anyone arriving to use a field should check to see if the light is active, especially if it looks like others have left the field.
- Encourage others to leave the field and seek immediate shelter.
- Wait for the “all clear” signal before returning to the field. Remember: it may take longer than 30 minutes for the “all clear” to be given.

Your Obligation to Comply

- Rules for complying with the Lightning Detection System will be posted at the fieldhouse and will be distributed to coaches and managers.
- All field users have an obligation to comply with the alerts by immediately vacating the field and seeking shelter. This includes coaches, parents, referees/umpires. It applies equally to organized sports activities as well as casual field users.
- The safety of all participants, especially children, is of paramount importance. Lightning kills and heeding the alerts could be a matter of life or death.

What to Do at Field Location with No Lightning Detection System

- If you see lightning or hear thunder, clear the field immediately and seek shelter.
- Wait 30 minutes from the last lightning strike or sound of thunder before returning to the field.
- Use common sense.

The league recommends that coaches at field locations without the lightning detection system use the Little League Weatherbug App on their phone as an additional resource.