

## **LIGHTNING GUIDELINES FOR UMPIRES**

If at any point during the match the threat of lightning, whether actual or perceived, comes to the attention of either of the umpires, they should follow the protocol outlined below and agree a course of action taking into account all factors and having taken into consideration the 40/30 guideline outlined below in E.

A. If the umpires agree that the lightning threat is imminent, then they should immediately direct the players to leave the field of play in a safe and orderly manner with the umpires and relocate to a secure and safe location as designated by the home club.

B. In order to resume play, the umpires must agree that the threat has passed and it is safe to resume play having regard to all relevant information.

C. In making decisions regarding suspension or resumption of play due to the threat of lightning, actual or perceived, the umpires may refer to any meteorological data that may be available

D. When making decisions regarding the suspension or resumption of play, the umpires must err on the side of caution and must prioritise the safety of those within the ground over and above the maximisation of play, irrespective of the state of the match. If there is any doubt as to the likely threat of lightning, then the umpires should either suspend play, or if that has happened already, not resume play until they have agreed the threat has passed.

E. The following 40/30 guidelines should be considered by the umpires

i) Play should be suspended and shelter immediately sought when there is 40 seconds or less between the flash of lightning and the associated thunder clap.

ii) It is generally safe to return to the field of play a minimum of 30 minutes after the final flash of lightning or clap of thunder has been heard (refer also D) above and iii) below.

iii) It might be possible to resume play earlier than 30 minutes but only if it is clear and agreed by the umpires, in accordance with paragraph D) above that the storm has moved on and there is no threat of lightning

iv) For clarity the final decision remains in the hands of the umpires.