

Alton School District Athletics Lightning & Severe Weather Shelter Policy

In order to protect all individuals from injury during times of lightning delay the Alton school district has established this policy and procedure list. This policy has been made in accordance with the IHSA's severe weather safety guidelines that state at the sound of thunder or sight of lightning all play must be suspended and shelter must be taken.

(https://archive.ihsa.org/documents/sportsMedicine/IHSA-Severe_Weather_Safety_Guidelines.pdf)

We will also use the weather station and technology (Sferic Maps/advanced warnings via text/phone) associated with it to determine when to delay and take shelter. We will also use this technology to determine all clear status. When delays occur this plan will help to ensure everyone's safety. In the next several pages each sport and each venue for that sport will have a detailed plan as to where everyone from players to fans should go in event of lightning. These plans will be executed with the help of Alton school district personnel including but not limited to Administration, Athletic Directors, Coaches, and Athletic Trainers. The role of these individuals will be to open doors to buildings, clear the stands of fans, and direct everyone where to go. These roles will be different at each venue and for each sport. Each of the following lists of locations and actions will be put into effect after the contest is suspended due to lightning.

****AHS Coaching staff are responsible for following the plan at all times.****

****They must monitor weather conditions and be aware of lightning alerts****

Sample Announcement for Severe Weather

"Ladies & Gentlemen: We are requesting your assistance in seeking safe shelter due to the current weather conditions. We are asking the fans not to remain on, under or near bleachers, light poles, or fences. We are requesting that you move to your cars. When it is safe to continue an announcement will be made. The teams will warm up and play will continue. Thank you for your cooperation"

Venue # 1 Public School Stadium & West Elementary

Sport: Football & Soccer

Group 1: Home, Visiting Teams, and Officials will leave the field for their locker rooms.

- A. They will do this by moving up the bleacher stairs and across the commons.
- B. School personnel need to ensure the doors are unlocked.

Group 2: Home and Visiting Cheerleaders will leave field and proceed to West Gymnasium

- A. They will do this by moving up the bleacher stairs, up the stairs to upper parking lot gate and going inside doors of West Gymnasium.
- B. School personnel need to ensure gates and doors are unlocked.

Group 3: Marching 100 (if staying) will leave bleachers and proceed to West Gymnasium.

- A. They will do this by the same path as cheerleaders.

Group 4: The chain gang will take shelter in the band stand located under the scoreboard.

Group 5: Fans must exit Stadium and proceed to their automobiles or other location of shelter.

A. After ensuring safety of all school participants Alton school personnel should help to clear the stadium of fans and then can take shelter in the gym as well.

Regulations

1. Concession stands must close for business (and close windows) and those personnel can take shelter in the stand or in the gym as well.
2. In the event that the game is then canceled the visiting buses should be allowed to pull around to front circle drive. The visiting players and cheerleaders can then exit through the front of the school. This area therefore needs to be cleared for bus traffic.
3. No one should be allowed to return to the field or the stadium until the all clear is given by the games officials.

Venue #2 Alton High School

Underclass baseball at AHS

Group 1: Both teams and game officials should move to the main gym lobby.

Group 2: Fans can follow to the main gym lobby or take shelter in their automobiles.

Softball at AHS

Group 1: Both teams and game officials should move up steps and into the main gym lobby.

Group 2: Fans can follow to the main gym lobby or take shelter in their automobile.

Boys & Girls Tennis

Group 1: Teams, Coaches should move to a safe location by entering the building.

A. They should enter a through side entrance next to auxiliary gym (Door 20)

Group 2: Fans can move into building following teams or can go to automobiles.

Varsity Baseball

Group 1: Home team will take shelter in the club house; visiting team can take shelter in locker rooms if available, or their bus or the auxiliary gym at AHS if available.

Group 2: Fans should move to automobiles

Group 3: Game officials should meet with both coaches and then take shelter in clubhouse or automobiles

Track at AHS

Group 1: Home team should take shelter in locker rooms if available. All other teams should take shelter on the bus.

Group 2: Coaches and starter should meet in press box to determine course of action

Soccer at AHS

Group 1: Teams should take shelter in locker rooms if available. Visiting teams can use buses or the auxiliary gym as well.

Group 2: Officials and coaches should meet at the concession stand to discuss a plan of action before taking shelter as well.

Football at AHS

Group 1: Home should proceed to locker rooms at AHS. Visiting team to their bus and can drive to main school to Aux gym if available.

Group 2: Cheerleaders should take cover in the main building/Aux gym with access via door 20.

Group 3: Officials should meet at the concession stand to discuss a plan of action before taking shelter as well.

Group 4: Band if present proceed to school building.

Group 5: Fans should seek shelter in cars

Cross Country at AHS

Group 1: Teams & meet officials should move up the ramp to enter AHS through door 33 next to the greenhouse.

Group 2: Fans should move to cars

Auxiliary Gym at AHS

In the event that a tornado warning is issued for the proximity of Alton High School the gym should be evacuated.

Group 1: Teams & officials should be moved to locker rooms

Group 2: Fans and anyone else in the gym should proceed to the hall way by the multipurpose room, passing through the old door # 20

Main Gymnasium at AHS

In the event that a tornado warning is issued for the proximity of Alton High School the gym should be evacuated.

Group 1: Teams & officials should move to their respective locker rooms.

Group 2: Cheerleaders should move to drivers Ed Room (B133) and ISS Room (B132).

Group 3: AHS Band should proceed to the music rooms.

Group 4; Dance & Steppers should proceed to an unused locker room if one is available.

Group 5: Fans should be directed to leave the gym on the lobby side and proceed to the hallway by the success academy office (B142).

Venue #3 Gordon Moore Park & Rock Springs Park

Boys & Girls Tennis at Simpson Tennis Center

Group 1: Teams and coaches can take shelter in either the office building or in buses/automobiles. Match officials should meet in office to decide the course of action.

Group 2: Fans must move into automobiles or leave the venue.

Cross Country

Group 1: Teams should take shelter in the Munsterman building or buses. Coaches and meet officials should go to the office to determine the course of action.

Group 2: Fans must move to automobiles or vacate the park.

Golf at Spencer T. Olin & Rolling Hills

Group 1: Players should take shelter in the clubhouse or on buses.

Group 2: Coaches should meet in pro shop to determine course of action

Tennis at Rock Springs Park

Group 1: Players & coaches should seek shelter at Alton Middle School in the annex.

Group 2: Fans should seek shelter in vehicles

General Regulations for all venues.

1. When the contest is stopped for lightning all concession stand must close and workers should take shelter.
2. After all student athletes have taken shelter school officials must make sure the venue is clear of all fans.
3. No one should be allowed to return to the stadium/field/court until the all clear is given by school/game officials.
4. All school personnel should be prepared to help do what is necessary to help execute the plan

5. When taking shelter in automobiles it is recommended to avoid use of cell phones and car radios as these attract lightning.

6. PA Announcer will inform fans of the lightning delay and recommend appropriate location of shelter and that there will be a minimum delay of 30 minutes after each lightning event