**Policy Title**:  Thunder and Lightning

**Scope**:  This policy applies to any SVA coach, board member or referee.

**Purpose**:  The purpose of this policy is to provide instruction for suspending play in the event of a thunder/lightning storm.

**Policy/Requirements**:  SVA strives to provide a safe playing environment for all participants.

If thunder is heard or lightning is seen, the storm is close enough to pose danger. The coach, referee or board member must immediately suspend play and all participants should take shelter.

Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning seen or thunder is heard before resuming play.  If thunder or lightning is noted during the 30 minute countdown, reset the clock for another 30 minutes.

- Practices:  the coach may choose to resume practice after 30 minutes of neither lightning nor thunder OR the coach may choose to end practice. Minor children must NOT be left alone if the practice ends early.

- Games:  the sport chairperson or senior board member present may choose whether to postpone or cancel games.  SVA makes no guarantees regarding rescheduling of cancelled or incomplete games.

- Other events:  the senior board member present may choose whether to postpone or cancel the event.

In the event of cancellation, SVA will notify affected coaches in at least one of the following ways:  verbal notification, posted signs, a recording on the office voicemail, Facebook, the web page www.southvalleyathletics.org, email and/or text message.  Coaches will be responsible for notifying their players.

**References:**  National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC), NFHS Guidelines on Handling Contests During Lightning Disturbances, October 2010.