



Lightning Guidelines

Donvale Football Club has developed this policy in line with the requirements of the EFL and the AFL Community Club policies and procedures. Further information can be found on the following websites:

- AFLcommunityclub.com.au/clubhub/lightning_policy
- [EFL.org.au/resources/bylaws \(section 9\)](http://EFL.org.au/resources/bylaws_(section_9))

1. Introduction

When lightning is considered to be a possible or actual threat to a Donvale Football match the following procedures are applicable:

1.1 Access to Bureau of Meteorology

The proactive plan should commence in the days before the activity, where weather forecasts provide important warning of possible thunderstorm activity. Note should be taken off any warnings posted.

On the day prior to match if any threat of lightning is predicted the Team Manager may liaise with the Team Manager from the other team and request a verbal update.

1.2 Match Day

Increased awareness of lightning risk should continue on the match day until the activity has finished.

If the threat continues into game day the Team Manager should contact or meet with the Team Manager from the other team to discuss the situation.

They should check the Bureau of Meteorology website then discuss the situation with the Coaches and Umpires.

Regular updates must be sought from the Bureau of Meteorology in the period leading up to the match commencement time, involving the Team Managers, competing Clubs and an umpire.

Teams and officials should proceed to the venue unless otherwise directed.

If lightning is predicted within no less than 10km of the match venue at the scheduled starting time the game commencement time may be delayed by up to 60 minutes.

This decision to **delay or suspend** play as well as **resume** play will be based on information obtained from the Bureau of Meteorology.



The relevant officials including the Umpire, together with Team Managers and Coaches and will be involved in these discussions, particularly if the decision is made to delay or suspend the game.

Refer to **Section 9 of the EFL Bylaws titled Match Cancellation – Adverse Weather Conditions** for further information and instruction.

2. At Training (Club Responsibility)

The Coach or Team Manager should monitor forecasts and particularly warnings, through the Bureau of Meteorology, in the lead up to outdoor training sessions.

A decision to delay, suspend or resume training should be made in consultation with relevant coaching staff, and / or parents, if necessary.

If players are training when the lightning threat becomes real then they should leave the training venue immediately and take shelter inside a building or metal framed car.

They must not shelter under or near trees.

Once the storm's path has been reassessed, there must be a minimum of 30 minutes elapsed before returning to training.