

OTTERBEIN UNIVERSITY

LIGHTNING/SEVERE WEATHER POLICY

The policy is adapted from the NCAA Guidelines for Lightning Safety, the National Athletic Trainers' Association position statement: Lightning safety for athletics and recreation, and is in accordance with the current OAC Lightning Policy. It is the responsibility of the athletic administration, sports medicine staff, and coaching staff(s) to abide by and enforce the policy.

1. The following is the chain of command that is to be adhered to in the event of lightning/severe weather. Cooperation amongst all parts of the chain is needed to ensure the safety of participants and spectators of Otterbein athletics.

Athletic Administration	Office	Cell
Dawn Stewart	614-823-3518	614-327-2449
Connie Richardson	614-823-3517	614-205-1748
Tim Doup	614-823-3527	614-519-9729
Andy Winters (fall)	614-823-1844	614-579-1373
George Powell (fall)	614-823-3521	614-893-3536
Dan Damico (winter)	614-823-2955	740-244-9446
Brooke Donovan (winter)	614-823-3506	302-463-0760
Alan Moore (winter)	614-823-3526	614-406-5135
Brent Rastetter (winter)	614-823-3229	614-610-0079
Mary Corbett (spring)		614-325-4658
Dustin Calhoun (spring)	614-823-1941	614-365-0877
Skip Ford	614-823-3531	614-397-7570
Brock Frentzel	614-823-3536	614-554-5843

Athletic Training Staff		
Danielle Kilboy	614-823-3507	614-313-4539
Amanda Lusky	614-823-3533	412-897-0016
Aaron Dattilo	614-823-1537	740-816-6343
Angelo Lamatrice	614-823-3510	614-203-8773
Morgan McCool		304-639-7384
Megan Imwalle		419-953-0350

Head Coach, Assistant Coaches, Graduate Assistant Coaches

Otterbein Police 614-823-1222

If at any time there is a disagreement regarding the continuation and/or return to play, the ultimate decision should be made by a member of the athletic administration.

2. In the event of lightning, participants and spectators should be removed from the playing area and taken to a "safe" facility. A "safe" facility must be a completely enclosed building with plumbing and electricity.
 - a. **Stadium** – The locker room facility is the closest "safe" building for anyone participating at this location (football, men's soccer, women's soccer, men's lacrosse, women's

lacrosse, men's track and field, and women's track and field.) Should evacuation of the playing area be necessary both participants and spectators should be instructed to proceed to "safe" areas. All Otterbein personnel (players, coaches, support staff, and administrators) should go to their respective team locker rooms or the Athletic Training Room. The visiting personnel (players, coaches, support staff, and administrators) should proceed to their respective locker rooms. The spectators should proceed to their personal vehicles or to the Rike Center or Clements Center. It is the responsibility of the administration, athletic training staff, and coaches to keep players and spectators out of the shower and toilet areas.

- b. **Baseball/Softball Fields** – The Rike Center and/or Clements Center will be utilized in the event of lightning. Both teams, coaches, support staff, and athletic administrators (Otterbein and visitors) will be instructed to proceed to the Rike or Clements Center. **Dugouts are not considered a "safe" structure.** No players, coaches or other personnel are permitted to stay in the Dugouts during a lightning delay. All spectators will be instructed to move to their personal vehicles or into the Rike or Clements Center. It is the responsibility of the administration, athletic training staff, and coaches to keep players and spectators out of the shower and toilet areas.
- c. **Lehman Cross-Country Course** – The Clements Center or Rike Center is the closest "safe" building. Should evacuation from the course be necessary all teams, coaches, support staff, and athletic administration should immediately proceed to the Clements Center, Rike Center, or visiting team buses or transportation vehicles. All spectators will be instructed to proceed to their personal vehicles or to the Rike or Clements Center. It is the responsibility of the administration, athletic training staff, and coaches to keep players and spectators out of the shower and toilet areas.
- d. **Clements Field (Soccer/WLAX Field)** - The Rike Center and/or Clements Center will be utilized in the event of lightning. Both teams, coaches, support staff, and athletic administrators (Otterbein and visitors) will be instructed to proceed to the Rike or Clements Center. All spectators will be instructed to move to their personal vehicles or into the Rike or Clements Center. It is the responsibility of the administration, athletic training staff, and coaches to keep players and spectators out of the shower and toilet areas.
- e. **Africa Road Practice Fields** - The Clements Center, Rike Center, or the Stadium are the closest "safe" buildings. Should evacuation from the course be necessary, all teams, coaches, support staff, and athletic administration should immediately proceed to the Clements Center, Rike Center, or Memorial Stadium. All spectators will be instructed to proceed to their personal vehicles or to the Rike or Clements Center. It is the responsibility of the administration, athletic training staff, and coaches to keep players and spectators out of the shower and toilet areas.
- f. **Tennis Courts** - The Rike Center and/or Clements Center will be utilized in the event of lightning. Both teams, coaches, support staff, and athletic administrators (Otterbein and visitors) will be instructed to proceed to the Rike or Clements Center. All spectators will be instructed to move to their personal vehicles or into the Rike or Clements Center.

It is the responsibility of the administration, athletic training staff, and coaches to keep players and spectators out of the shower and toilet areas.

- g. Golf** – The clubhouse will be the closest “safe” structure. In the event of lightning, all players, coaches, support staff, and athletic administrators will proceed to the clubhouse. It is the responsibility of the administration, athletic training staff, and coaches to keep players and spectators out of the shower and toilet areas.
- 3. Evacuation of practice and playing fields should begin immediately at the **when lightning has been detected within a 10 mile radius as indicated on the WeatherSentry DTN app and WeatherSentry DTN text alert system.**** Participants and spectators should not attempt to wait out the lightning or wait for the lightning to get closer. An announcement will be made over by the public address announcer for spectators to their designated “safe structures” immediately following the decision to suspend play. In the event of a power outage prior to the PA announcement, the game administrator or Otterbein Police member on site will make the announcement to the spectators via bullhorn.
- 4. Once inside the safe structure, the use of land line telephones should be avoided unless there is an emergency. Cell phones should be used for all other calls.**
- 5. Following evacuation as a result of lightning, the continuation of activity should resume only once the WeatherSentry DTN app and WeatherSentry DTN text alert system has delivered the “All Clear” message meaning the lightning has moved outside of the 10 mile radius. Even though the skies may be clear there can still be dangerous lightning.** Game administrators, home and visiting coaches, game officials, and athletic trainers will convene in the athletic training room (Stadium or FATC) immediately following the evacuation of the respective site to monitor the weather forecast and discuss the plan for resumption or potential postponement of play as the weather evolves.
- 6. Our Athletic training staff will utilize the WeatherSentry DTN app on our phones to monitor any storms with lightning that may develop.**
- 7. It is recommended that all coaches and administrators also be included on the WeatherSentry DTN text alert system on your cell phone so you can track storms.**