

Galena R-II School District
Galena Athletics/Activities Inclement Weather Policy

SCHOOL CANCELLATION DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER:

On any day in which school is dismissed during the school day because of inclement weather, all student activities including athletic practices, performing arts practices, athletic contests, performing arts productions, performances, or concerts will be postponed. All contests, productions and concerts may be made up at a later day should the calendar be accommodating.

Should school be canceled prior to the beginning of class for the school day due to snow, ice or other inclement weather, athletic practice and contests, and performing arts practice and performances may be held with certain restrictions and conditions. It is understood that practice, contests, or performances will not be conducted without the approval of the building principals. Should practice be permitted, the earliest starting time for such activities will be 12:00 p.m. All practices will be concluded by 4:00 p.m. to allow students the opportunity to return home before darkness or potential refreezing makes road conditions dangerous. The decision as to whether or not contests or performances will be held during the evening hours will be made by the Building Principal and the District Superintendent with consultation by the Activities Director and other school districts involved. The decision will be made by 2:30 p.m. and will be broadcast via school website and School Reach Textcaster.

The following procedures will be in place on days when school is cancelled prior to the beginning of class regarding athletic practices, performing arts practices, and other student activities:

- Building administration will make a decision by 10:00 a.m. whether or not conditions have improved enough to schedule practices.
 - Building principal will notify Athletic Director regarding the safety of holding practices and he/she will then communicate with the head coaches.
 - Building principal will notify activity sponsors as to the decision regarding practices/meetings/concerts for the day
- If it is determined that conditions have improved enough, the coaches/sponsors may contact their students and schedule practices.
- Coaches should make it clear in their communication that students should only attend if they and their parents feel it is safe to travel. There will be NO penalty if a student does not attend.
- Individual coaches/sponsors may still cancel practice even if given the go ahead.
- Students and parents should check the school web page for updates.

LIGHTNING

Because of the seemingly random nature of thunderstorms and lightning, the Galena R-II District cannot guarantee an individual or group absolute protection from lightning strikes. However, being aware of and following proven Lightning Safety Guidelines can greatly reduce the risk of injury or death.

Each individual is ultimately responsible for his/her personal safety and has the right to take reasonable and appropriate action when threatened by lightning, without fear of repercussion. Adults must take responsibility for the safety of children in their care during thunderstorm activity. The following guidelines should be employed when under any type of threatening weather conditions.

- 1) Outdoor activities will not start or continue if any one of the following occur:
 - a) The location of the activity is under a severe thunderstorm warning or tornado warning that has been issued by the National Weather Service;
 - b) Stone County Emergency Weather alert scanners, located in each school, broadcast a message of a severe thunderstorm warning or tornado warning.
- 2) A weather alert scanner is located in the administrative office area at each school. When a weather watch or warning message is broadcast on this scanner, a building administrator should be notified as soon as possible. Building administrators, athletic directors, coaches, and game officials should communicate throughout the day when a severe thunderstorm warning or tornado warning is a possibility.
- 3) Office staff will have a working knowledge as to how to operate the weather alert scanners. The National Weather Service broadcasts a test message once a month on the first Wednesday at 11:00 am to ensure weather alert scanners are in working order. If a weather radio is not working properly, notify the high school principal's office as soon as possible to either repair or replace the radio.
- 4) A storm spotter will be designated for all outdoor activities when there is a possibility of threatening weather. If lightning is *seen* or thunder is *heard*, the storm spotter should immediately inform game officials and/or building administrators. It is the responsibility of the game official to suspend or discontinue play. At this point, any outdoor activity must be discontinued. Move everyone to a safe location inside a building or ask them to go to their vehicles (with a metal top) immediately.
- 5) Safe locations should be identified prior to any outdoor activity. Dangerous areas to avoid should also be identified. When threatening weather is a possibility, the activity director/supervisor will announce evacuation procedures that spectators and participants will need to follow in the event of lightning. If evacuation is necessary, allow everyone enough time to get to a safe location. Safety guidelines for evacuation of small or large groups should be planned prior to and outdoor event.

- 6) Wait 30 minutes after the last known lightning sighting or thunder clap before resuming any outdoor activity. Statistics indicate that just as many lightning strikes occur at the end of a thunderstorm as at the beginning.
- 7) The following are recommended first aid tips for lightning victims:
 - a) Immediately call 911.
 - b) Be careful that rescuers are not putting themselves in a high-risk situation when assisting victim; if victim can be moved, move victim to minimize rescuer's exposure to lightning.
 - c) If a victim is not breathing, a certified rescuer should follow district guidelines on resuscitation. If there is no pulse, a certified rescuer should perform CPR until paramedics arrive.

SEVERE WEATHER/TORNADO:

When an interscholastic contest has been scheduled and dangerous playing conditions exist or severe weather is anticipated, the following rules will be in effect:

- Prior to beginning an athletic contest, when severe weather is anticipated, the head contest official and the principals of each school or their designees' will meet to review the suspension and postponement rule procedures as adopted by the MSHSAA.
- The host school administration will be responsible for informing the contest officials, the visiting school administrators and, if applicable, the individual responsible for public address announcements.
- If a tornado warning has been issued, the contest will be suspended immediately. Participants, spectators, and all personnel involved with the contest will be advised. The procedure to take cover will be announced over the public address system.
- If any other life-threatening condition occurs, play will be suspended immediately and predetermined directions to safe locations will be announced.
- When the suspension of a contest occurs, the following rules will be in effect:
 - If the suspension is 60 minutes or greater, the contest will be rescheduled.
 - When it appears that weather conditions are no longer a threat to the safety of participants, spectators, or contest officials, administrators from all schools involved will meet with the head contest official to determine if play will continue. If any administrator or contest official casts a negative vote for play to resume, the suspension should continue.
 - If play is to be resumed, contestants will be given a 15 minute warm-up period prior to resuming competition