WEATHER WATCHER & LIGHTNING SAFETY CHECKLIST

Outdoor Sports Venue Operational Decision-Support Template

1. Event & Operational Logistics

Event / Facility Name:	_____
Designated Weather Safety Official:	_____
Authorized Decision-Maker:	_____
Primary Weather Data Source / Monitoring Tool:	☐ Radar App ☐ Commercial Service ☐ Detector ☐ Other: _____

2. Lightning Decision Trigger Radii & Operational Actions

Monitor real-time lightning detection feeds and execute operational protocols based on distance thresholds from the venue perimeter:

Trigger Radius	Operational Status	Required Action & Protocols	Log Check
15 Miles	ADVISORY / STANDBY	Notify venue management & referees. Put staff on standby to assist crowd. Monitor radar motion vector.	☐ Time: ____
12 Miles	PREPARE EVACUATION	Prepare for activity suspension. If squall line / fast-moving storm is approaching directly, initiate early crowd evacuation.	☐ Time: ____
8 Miles or Less	IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION	STOP play immediately. Sound PA / horns. Evacuate all athletes, coaches, and spectators to designated safe shelters.	☐ Time: ____

3. Shelter Safety Assessment & Location Verification

Ensure all participants and spectators are guided strictly to designated safe shelters upon triggering the 8-mile threshold.

APPROVED SAFE SHELTERS (Direct Here)	UNSAFE LOCATIONS (STRICTLY PROHIBITED)
✔ Fully enclosed permanent structures with electrical wiring and grounded plumbing. ✔ Fully enclosed, hard-topped metal vehicles with windows rolled up completely. ✔ Designated primary indoor gymnasium / fieldhouse auditorium.	✘ Open dugouts, shade gazebos, picnic pavilions, or rain shelters. ✘ Metal bleachers, press boxes, light poles, or perimeter fencing. ✘ Golf carts, open utility vehicles, tall trees, or open athletic fields.
Primary Designated Safe Facility: _____	Crowd Control Evacuation Marshals: _____

4. All-Clear & Play Resumption Protocols

Activities may ONLY resume when one of the following official conditions is met:

- **Standard Protocol:** A mandatory **30-minute waiting period** has elapsed since the last observed flash of lightning or sound of thunder. *Any new strike resets the 30-minute timer back to 0.*
- **Meteorological Service Protocol:** Real-time weather tracking confirms lightning has moved beyond 8 miles, storm trajectory is moving AWAY from the venue, and no new strikes have occurred for 30 minutes.

Event Threshold	Time Recorded	Observation / Strike Distance	Watcher Initials
Initial Activity Suspension (Strike < 8 mi)	____ : ____ AM/PM	___ Miles Away	_____
Last Observed Lightning / Thunder	____ : ____ AM/PM	___ Miles Away	_____
Official All-Clear Issued (30-Min Met)	____ : ____ AM/PM	Cleared Beyond 8 mi	_____