



SPRINGS SOCCER CLUB

Lightning & Severe Weather Policy

Cypress Park — Following the City of Coral Springs Parks & Recreation Lightning Policy

Springs Soccer Club (SSC) plays and trains at the City of Coral Springs' Cypress Park and follows the City's Parks & Recreation Lightning Policy. Florida is the lightning capital of the United States, and lightning can strike even when skies overhead appear clear. The safety of our players, families, coaches, and officials is our highest priority. This policy explains how the City's lightning detection system works at Cypress Park and the steps everyone at an SSC activity must follow.

Perry Weather Detection System

The City of Coral Springs uses the Perry Weather Outdoor Warning System to monitor and detect lightning at its park complexes, including Cypress Park. The system continuously measures real-time conditions at the park and automatically alerts everyone on site when lightning is detected within a 10-mile radius. When a threat is detected, the system activates an audible horn and a flashing strobe light — no staff member needs to be present for the alert to sound.

Cypress Park Perry Weather status: Before and during any activity, check the live weather and lightning-delay status for Cypress Park at coralsprings.gov/Parks-Directory/Cypress-Park.

Warning Signals — Know the Sounds

Everyone at an SSC activity must learn and respond to the following signals:

- **Take Shelter (Alert):** One long 15-second horn blast and a continuously flashing strobe light. This means lightning has been detected within 10 miles. All activity stops immediately and everyone seeks shelter.
- **All Clear:** Three short horn blasts and the strobe light turns off. This is the only signal that it is safe to return to the fields and resume play.

The 30-minute rule: The alert stays active for 30 minutes from the most recent lightning strike. Each new strike within 10 miles resets the countdown timer to a full 30 minutes. Play does not resume until the timer reaches zero and the all-clear sounds — even if the sky looks clear and the rain has stopped.

What To Do When the Alert Sounds

1. Stop all activity immediately. Players, coaches, spectators, and officials must leave the fields the moment the horn sounds or the strobe begins to flash.
2. Seek shelter right away. The safest place is inside a fully enclosed vehicle with the windows up. Move to your car (or a fully enclosed building) without delay.
3. Do NOT shelter in unsafe places. Never wait under trees, picnic canopies, dugouts, bleachers, pavilions, or concession-building overhangs, and stay away from metal fences, light poles, and open fields. On-site facility rooms may be closed during alerts.
4. Parents must be present. During a weather delay, parents/guardians should be at the park with their vehicle so their child has a safe place to wait. Players will be released to wait with their family in their vehicle.
5. Wait for the all-clear. Remain sheltered until three short horn blasts sound and the strobe turns off. Do not return to the field based on your own judgment of the weather.
6. Watch for team communication. A cancellation or extended-delay decision may also be sent by the team manager or coach via PlayMetrics or text message.

If the System Is Not Available — The 30/30 Rule

If the Perry Weather system is not operating, or for any activity where the horn cannot be heard, SSC follows the standard 30/30 rule: if the time between a flash of lightning and the sound of thunder is 30 seconds or less, take shelter immediately. Wait a full 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning or clap of thunder before returning to play. Each new observation of lightning or thunder restarts the 30-minute wait.

Authority, Cancellations & Individual Judgment

- The City of Coral Springs park supervisor or on-site staff has final authority over field closures, reopening, and rescheduling at Cypress Park.
- SSC coaches and directors will always err on the side of caution and may suspend or end an activity for weather even if the system has not alerted.
- Anyone who sees lightning or hears thunder should seek shelter immediately, whether or not a signal has sounded. If you feel your skin tingle or your hair stand on end, crouch low on the balls of your feet, and do not lie flat on the ground.
- Most lightning fatalities happen after a storm appears to have passed. When in doubt, stay sheltered.

Learn More

City of Coral Springs Lightning Policy: [View the City's official Lightning Policy](#)

Cypress Park page (live weather & status): coralsprings.gov/Parks-Directory/Cypress-Park

This SSC Lightning & Severe Weather Policy supplements, and does not replace, the City of Coral Springs Parks & Recreation Lightning Policy. Where the two differ, the City's policy and the direction of on-site park staff control.