

# Weather Protocol

## FCSL Meets/Games

FCSL will make every effort to hold competitions, however the safety of the membership is paramount.

Competitions will be held in rain and wind if deemed safe by meet/game committee and host aquatics facility. Foul weather, such as lightning, hail and gale force winds, may force a postponement or cancelation. These events are out of FCSL control and every reasonable effort will be made to complete the meet/game.

FCSL weather policy is as follows:

1. If foul weather is anticipated the morning of a meet/game a decision to postpone the meet/game will be made no later than 1 hour before warm up via SMS (RainedOut.com)
2. If foul weather begins within ½ hour of the start of warm up during a championship meet/game the following protocol will go into effect:
  - a. Thunder: Meet/game committee will check My Lightning Tracker or similar website or app for lightning distance if any thunder is heard. All athletes should leave the pool.
  - b. Lightning: If lightning is seen or detected within 10 miles of meet/game location a 30 minute hold will go into effect. All athletes, spectators, officials should go directly to a safe location\*. Updates will be provided every 15 minutes via SMS.
  - c. Meet/game may continue once lightning has not been detected within a 10 mile radius for 30 minutes. There is no set time period for event cancellation or postponement and every effort will be made to conduct meet/game on the given day. If weather prevents the meet/game from taking place on that date there will be no rain date unless previously indicated by FCSL.
  - d. Hail: If hail occurs before or during the event, meet/game will be suspended until that precipitation stops. Updates will be provided via SMS.
  - e. High Winds: No tents or umbrellas will be allowed on deck if high winds are anticipated – notification of ban will be disseminated via SMS. Sustained winds exceeding 39 mph (gale force) will suspend meet/game until winds decrease to below 39 mph. In the event of high winds during an event all patrons should go directly to a safe location\*. Updates will be provided via SMS every 15 minutes.

**\* SAFE LOCATIONS DURING A LIGHTNING STORM (NOAA/NWS)**

<p><b>WHERE TO GO:</b></p> <p>The safest location during a thunderstorm is inside a large enclosed structure with plumbing and electrical wiring. These include shopping centers, schools, office buildings, and private residences. If lightning strikes the building, the plumbing and wiring will conduct the electricity and eventually direct it into the ground.</p> <p>If no substantial buildings are available, then an enclosed metal vehicle such as an automobile, van, or school bus would be a suitable alternative.</p>	<p><b>WHERE <u>NOT</u> TO GO:</b></p> <p>Not all types of buildings or vehicles are safe during thunderstorms. <u>Buildings with exposed sides are NOT safe</u> (even if they are "grounded"). These include beach shacks, metal sheds, picnic shelters/pavilions, carports, and baseball dugouts. Porches are dangerous as well.</p> <p>Convertible vehicles offer no safety from lightning, even if the top is up. Other vehicles which are NOT safe during thunderstorms are those with open cabs, such as golf carts, tractors, and construction equipment.</p>
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SMS Weather related updates for FCSL Championships: opt in via RainedOut.com  
Make sure to subscribe to your sports and or divisions.

Opt-In now!

<https://tinyurl.com/fcslweather>

