**MSHSAA FOOTBALL MANUAL SECTION 1 PARAGRAPH H**

PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING CONTESTS DURING HAZARDOUS WEATHER CONDITIONS:

Games interrupted because of events beyond the control of the responsible administrative authority shall be continued from the point of interruption unless the teams agree otherwise or there are conference, league, or state association rules which apply (Rule 3-1-4).

HAZARDOUS WEATHER CONDITIONS: In case of inclement weather, the host school manager shall determine whether a game will start and so notify the referees and opposing school. The district will not adopt a provision that if one game is postponed, all games in that district are postponed on that date.

Make arrangements with referees to pay only travel expenses if they drive to the site and the game is not started. If the game is started, the referees working the game will be paid for that contest but will not receive a second payment for completing the game at a later date other than travel expenses. In situations where a referee has a conflict on the day in which the game is rescheduled and another official works the game he will be paid a game fee and travel expenses.

The host school principal or his designated representative and the head official have mutual authority to delay the start of a game any time weather conditions are considered to be hazardous to life or limb. Likewise, the head official, once a game has started, has the authority, by rule, to suspend a game anytime weather conditions are considered to be hazardous to life or limb. If severe weather develops while a game is in progress, where the administration feels safety is questionable and the game officials have not acted, the host principal or his/her designated representative will intervene by informing the head official who shall suspend the contest.

Develop criteria for suspension and resumption of play:

1. When thunder is heard or a cloud-to-ground lightning bolt is seen, the thunder storm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play and take shelter immediately.

2. Thirty-minute Rule: Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or flash of lightning is witnessed prior to resuming play.

3. If there is any subsequent thunder or lightning after the beginning of the 30-minute count, reset the clock; another 30-minute count should begin.If there are extenuating circumstances (such as extreme travel distances, rescheduling problems, etc.) which

make it desirable to try to complete the game, and the principals of both schools or their designated representatives choose to ask for an additional 30 minutes of waiting time, the head official may grant that request. If the principals of both schools or their designated representatives and the head official cannot mutually agree that the weather conditions are safe, the game shall be postponed. The game may either be considered a completed game at that point or rescheduled at a later time according to game rules. The purpose of this procedure is to ensure the safety of the players and spectators but also to relieve the pressure from the officials before declaring a game suspended. The host principal should, when severe weather is pending, keep a constant check with nearby radio stations which would have information concerning the path of the storm. This constant check, available to the administration, is not available to the game officials. School district emergency plans should include procedures for evacuating players and spectators to protected areas when severe weather occurs.

Inclement Weather Policy

SEMO Football Officials Association

Addendum to MSHSAA FOOTBALL MANUAL - SECTION 1 PARAGRAPH H

Cancellation before 3 hours prior to the game before officials depart for the game - No fee Required.

Cancellation before kickoff, officials arrive at the game site less than 3 hours before kickoff:

 Crews receive at least 50% of the game fee and mileage, travel expenses and travel time and

 time at the game awaiting a decision.

Suspending an in-progress (postponed) game until a later date after officials’ arrival at the game site:

For the scheduled game officials should receive a 100% game fee. If the game is postponed

After on half of the game is complete, the returning game officials covering the postponed and

rescheduled (resumed) game be paid the same rate as a 9th grade (junior varsity) game fee and

one mileage check at $.38 per mile from the crew’s central location.

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