MTSOA Meeting minutes for 3-4-3019

63 referees attended the meeting

**Marco**—Talked about the mercy rule and lightning rule. Please see below for those rules. Reminder of policy with handing spectators:

*Policy dealing with Parents, Spectators, Students, Etc.: Officials will only have contact with the Game Administer and Police/Security, or Coach if GA or Police not present when dealing with any actions involving parents, spectators, students, etc.*

**Coz**—Please keep your schedules up to date and thank you for being patient with all the games being loaded. So far, we have 1250 games uploaded in arbiter and still have more to go.

**Tim**—Thank you once again for filing your game reports in a timely manner. Thank you to Stephen Speer, Dan Scott and Murray Frazier for when arbiter was messing up they e-mailed me and let me know so we could complete their reports. Once again please have the reports filed no greater than 24 hours after the game. Please place all cards, team names, player’s name, minute and type of infraction in the report. Also, per TSSAA, you must attend 3 local meetings in a school year to remain in good standing.

**Tony**-- Current balance $4,217.64

Income since last report $2,915

Expenditures $1,749

     Bank svc change $14.00

     Banquet $1,635.82

     Banquet Location donation  $100

What is thunder? Thunder is caused by lightning. When a lightning bolt travels from the cloud to the ground it actually opens up a little hole in the air, called a channel. Once then light is gone the air collapses back in and creates a sound wave that we hear as thunder. The reason we see lightning before we hear thunder is because light travels faster than sound!

Heat Lightning The term heat lightning is commonly used to describe lightning from a distant thunderstorm just too far away to see the actual cloud-to-ground flash or to hear the accompanying thunder. While many people incorrectly think that heat lightning is a specific type of lightning, it is simply the light produced by a distant thunderstorm. Often, mountains, hills, trees or just the curvature of the earth prevent the observer from seeing the actual lightning flash. Instead, the faint flash seen by the observer is light being reflected off higher-level clouds. Also, the sound of thunder can only be heard for about 10 miles from a flash.

NFHS/TSSAA Guidelines on Handling Contests During Lightning or Thunder Disturbances

A. When thunder is heard, or lightning is seen\*, the leading edge of the thunderstorm is

close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play for at least thirty

minutes and vacate the outdoor activity to the previously designated safer location

immediately.

B. Thirty-minute rule. Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard, or lightning is witnessed\* prior to resuming play.  
C. Any subsequent thunder or lightning\* after the beginning of the 30-minute count will reset the clock and another 30-minute count should begin.   
D. When lightning-detection devices or mobile phone apps are available, this technology could be used to assist in making a decision to suspend play if a lightning strike is noted to be within 10 miles of the event location. However, you should never depend on the reliability of these devices and thus, hearing thunder or seeing lightning\* should always take precedence over information from a mobile app or lightning-detection device.

\* - At night, under certain atmospheric conditions, lightning flashes may be seen from distant storms. In these cases, it may be safe to continue an event. If no thunder can be heard and the flashes are low on the horizon, the storm may not pose a threat. Independently verified lightning detection information would help eliminate any uncertainty.

\*\*\*\*The TSSAA board of control has adopted a mercy rule beginning with the 2017–2018 school year.

After a five-goal differential has been reached, the clock shall run continuously except for heat time out and injuries. If a nine-goal differential has been reached by half time or at any time during the second half, the game shall be terminated.

Once a five-goal differential has occurred, the clock will continue to run even if the other team scores goals. The clock now will continue to run no matter how many goals are scored by either team.

Officials, please remember with the clock on a continuous run, the only stoppage once a five-goal lead is reached is for injury or stoppage for heat time out.

The match must be played to at least half time before ending due to the mercy rule.

\*\*We are hoping that the next meeting will be online and possibly a Sunday in April. Next meeting time and date is still TBD.