ENVIRONMENTAL (WEATHER-RELATED) CONDITIONS

Environmental conditions including but not limited to, rain, thunder, lightning, temperature and/or high winds may necessitate the closing of the Outdoor Pool.

Lightning is a severe hazard that must be viewed seriously. Lightning has seriously injured and even killed golfers and pool users. On average, lightning kills more people in this country each year than hurricanes or tornados. Most lightning-related fatalities occur in children, teenagers and athletes who are outdoors. Twenty-five percent of these fatalities are in, on or around water.

Given the foregoing, the University takes lightning safety very seriously. Natatorium staff receive weather alerts whenever severe or electrical storm activity is approaching. For your safety, in some instances the request to clear the pool area may be made even before lightning is seen or thunder is heard.

THUNDER: Whenever thunder is heard the pool and surrounding area will close. Swimmers must exit the water and all persons within the pool area will be advised to seek shelter in a substantial building. The simple rule is “When Thunder Roars, Move Indoors.” The McCoy Natatorium has been designated as the closest shelter area. Severe storms may require shelter in the downstairs hallway or locker rooms. The pool will remain closed for 30 minutes following the last sound of thunder.

LIGHTNING: Lightning can strike anywhere within a 10 mile radius of the storm. In extreme cases, lighting strikes within a 20 mile radius have been documented. Most thunderstorms are six to ten miles wide. Because lightning can be seen from a distance, the University will follow the 30/30 Rule. This rule requires that whenever the flash-to-bang count is less than 30 seconds, the pool area must be immediately evacuated and will remain closed for 30 minutes following the last sound of thunder or flash of lightning.

Your Safety Is Our Top Priority.
Thank you for your cooperation.