

ADVERSE WEATHER GUIDELINE

Purpose

The purpose of these guidelines is to provide guidance to competition administrators, players and umpires, ensuring that no participant suffers significant health damage due to participating in adverse weather conditions.

The guidelines acknowledge that junior and adolescent players are at a higher risk of heat illness, compared to adult and elite players. As such a more conservative approach to playing in the heat is required for those under the age of 18 years of age, especially the very young players.

Scope

The guidelines apply to competition administrators, coaches, players and umpires involved in any organised community cricket competitions, matches or training. The responsibility for ensuring the safety of individual participants is primarily the responsibility of clubs and the individuals themselves.

Definitions

For the purpose of these guidelines and unless the context otherwise requires:

“Association” refers to the Association responsible for the relevant Competition.

Responsibility

No Person can be forced by the Association to participate in any match.

The Association reserves the right to use its absolute discretion to adjust/abandon matches outside of the following outlined forecasts based on factors including, but not limited to:

- The weather up to seven days prior to the commencement of the fixture
- The impact of other mid-week/representative cricket prior to the commencement of the fixture

Hot Weather

Clubs are encouraged to consider additional considerations when playing and training in temperatures in excess of 32 degrees such as extra drinks breaks and rotation of players where applicable / possible. Player welfare and safety must always be put first.

Individuals have a responsibility to withdraw from participating if their particular circumstances place them at an unacceptable level of risk. Participating in hot conditions will affect different individuals to different extents and in differing ways.

Factors which can influence the effect on different individuals include:

- The individual's level of fitness and general health
- The preparation the individual has undertaken in the lead-up to the match
- Whether, and how much, the individual has participated in cricket (or other strenuous activities) in the days prior to the day of the match in which he/she is now participating
- The measures the participant takes to ensure proper rehydration during and after participating
- The age of the individual

The relevant Association's rule for calling off games due to heat is located within their By-Laws.

These guidelines should complement the [Australian Cricket Heat Guidelines](#), which include a Heat Stress Risk Index (HSRI), a cricket-specific tool developed specifically by Cricket Australia to be used in determining the heat stress risk to participants in Community Cricket.

The Heat Stress Risk Index (HSRI) is calculated based on key values to be taken from the weather station closest to the location from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM), and observations made by the person entering the data at the location.

In addition to the 'Community' HSRI for adult participants, Cricket Australia has developed a 'Pathway' HSRI tool specifically for junior participants, which can be used in matches, tournaments and training sessions involving players under the age of 18.

[Community Heat Stress Risk Index \(for adult participants\)](#)

[Pathway Heat Stress Risk Index \(for under 18 participants\)](#)

A conservative approach is to be taken in situations where there are both adults and under 18 participants in the same competitions, matches and/or trainings. Where there are under 18 participants in any organised activity, the 'Pathway' HSRI is to be used.

Wet Weather

The umpires, or where there are no umpires, the Captains (interchangeable with Coaches in junior matches) will inspect the ground to determine whether it is suitable for play. Whilst it is preferable for matches to begin if conditions permit, the decision should be based primarily on the duty of care to, and safety of players along with (if playing on turf) the potential damage to the wicket and surrounding areas. The home club, by agreement with the opposition and if by-laws allow, may arrange a suitable alternative venue for the match to be played. Where there are umpire(s) supplied, the umpire(s) are the sole judge of pitch and venue condition. The fact that the grass and ball are wet and slippery does not warrant the ground conditions being regarded as unreasonable or dangerous. If the umpire(s) or where no umpires, coaches, consider the ground is so wet or slippery as to deprive the bowler of a reasonable foothold, the fielders the power of free movement, or the batters the ability to play their shots and run between the wickets, then these conditions shall be regarded as so bad that it would be unreasonable for play to take place.

Lightning

In the case of thunderstorms, the 30/30 rule shall be used to assess the distance between the storm and play. When a lightning strike is observed, count the seconds between the flash of lightning and the sound of thunder. If the count is less than 30 seconds, all participants must leave the field immediately for a minimum of 30 minutes. Ideally seek shelter in an enclosed building and avoid taking shelter near metal structures, open fields or trees. Play may continue only when the following is satisfied: the minimum 30 minute period off the field is completed and the original test of more than 30 seconds between an observed lightning flash and thunder is passed.

PROCEDURE

Heat - Cancellation in Advance

Locations for temperature readings are as follows.

- Metropolitan Adelaide – Adelaide
- Barossa - Nuriootpa
- Upper Fleurieu – Mount Barker

Monday Afternoon Matches

The final decision on whether Monday afternoon matches are played will be made following the updated BOM forecast released on Sunday evening at 6:00pm. Should the forecast temperature for 5:30pm Monday on the BOM app, as at 6:00pm on Sunday evening be 36 degrees Celsius or above, all matches will be cancelled.

Wednesday Afternoon Matches

The final decision on whether Wednesday afternoon matches are played will be made following the updated BOM forecast released on Tuesday evening at 6:00pm. Should the forecast temperature for 5:30pm Wednesday on the BOM app, as at 6:00pm on Tuesday evening be 36 degrees Celsius or above, all matches will be cancelled.

Friday Afternoon Matches

The final decision on whether Friday afternoon matches are played will be made following the updated BOM forecast released on Thursday evening at 6:00pm. Should the forecast temperature for 5:30pm Friday on the BOM app, as at 6:00pm on Thursday evening be 36 degrees Celsius or above, all matches will be cancelled.

Sunday Morning Matches

The final decision on whether Sunday morning matches are played will be made following the updated BOM forecast released on Saturday evening at 6:00pm. Should the forecast temperature for 12:30pm Sunday on the BOM app, as at 6:00pm on Saturday evening be 36 degrees Celsius or above, all matches will be cancelled.

If the forecast falls below the threshold to cancel matches;

In all remaining situations, play will occur and shall continue until the weather reaches 36 degrees **at the venue of the match** (as per the BOM app). Should the temperature threshold be reached during the day and play be cancelled, that shall be the final outcome for the day and play shall not resume.

Wet Weather

In the event of extreme wet weather conditions leading up to a round of matches, the Association may cancel matches in a round of Cricket. Where the Association has not cancelled a round of matches, the home club will advise the opposition by **6pm on the day prior to the match**, if the ground is unsuitable for play.

NOTE: In the event that a home club notifies the opposition that the ground is unsuitable for play, **a home club official** must also notify the SACA Competition Administrator(s) via email at competitions@saca.com.au by **6pm on the day prior to the match**. The SACA Competition Administrator(s) will be responsible for notifying any SACA umpires where relevant.

Where no cancellation has occurred by 6pm on the day prior to the match, both teams and players **must** attend the ground ready for the match to begin as scheduled. If the decision is made to cancel the match once the inspection has occurred, the **home club** will be responsible for completing the fixture outcome of 'Cancelled' in PlayHQ.