



POLICY TITLE: EXTREME WEATHER POLICY
POLICY CLASS: EXTERNAL

Extremes in Australian weather raise the question about Bowls Australia's policy in relation to stopping play or competition when severe weather strikes. Bowls Australia strives to ensure that its members participate in the game of bowls in the safest environment possible and with minimum risk of harm.

Weather conditions can vary greatly throughout Australia and Bowls Australia does not intend to second-guess the judgement of the controlling body of any given game. The decision whether to suspend or discontinue play is at the discretion of the controlling body. Bowls Australia has provided the following guidelines in assisting the controlling body in making that decision.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Each club should have in place evacuation and emergency policies and procedures and should conduct an evacuation drill at least once in each 12 month period.
- Each club should provide a contact phone number that players and officials can ring if they are in doubt as to the state of play on any given day.
- Bowls Australia advises that where possible, clubs should usually continue play or competition where they are able to do so, however, player and official's safety will remain the paramount consideration.
- The controlling body should suspend play/competition for up to two hours if the adverse weather condition may improve. Where conditions have not improved in that time, the controlling body should cancel the play/competition for that day and reschedule.
- The controlling body may approve rescheduling play/competition to another day or weekend if the controlling body determines that conditions are unsafe for players, officials or spectators. Typical reasons for this include consistent heavy rain, snow, slippery conditions, extreme heat or cold and bad light.
- If play/competition is to be cancelled and rescheduled, the controlling body will use their best endeavours to notify participants. The controlling body will determine the most appropriate method of communication and might consider community radio, newsletter, phone calls or e-mails.
- Each club should have its own policy as to refunding any fees to those participants who are unable to play/compete at the rescheduled time when the play/competition is cancelled due to adverse weather.

HOT WEATHER

- Players, officials and spectators should at all times be encouraged to wear hats or other head protection. It is recommended that a hat be part of any club uniform.

- Drinks should be available at every venue where play/competition takes place. Tap water should be available free of charge and in unlimited quantities. Other drinks may be served or sold as determined by each club.
- When the temperature reaches 35 degrees, play/competition should be interrupted at 20 minute intervals (at the completion of the end in play) for a period of 5 minutes, during which time, drinks should be made available. Any time limit imposed on the interrupted match will be waived.
- Where available, shelter should be offered for players and officials not involved in current play.
- Where the temperature reaches 38 degrees, it is recommended that play/competition be discontinued.
- Should a calibrated weather station be available at the venue, the following guidelines will then be applied.
 - When the heat stress index reaches 36 at the venue, play/competition should be interrupted at 20-minute intervals (at the completion of the end in play) for a period of 5 minutes, during which time, drinks should be made available. Any time limit imposed on the interrupted match will be waived.
 - When the heat stress index reaches 40 at the venue, play/competition will be suspended.
 - The heat stress index at the venue will be determined by the Tournament Director.
- Where the immediate safety of all players and officials is taken into consideration, the controlling body and the Skips of both teams may agree to continue play and waive the 5 minute period to take extra shelter and fluid.
- It will be at the discretion of the controlling body to determine whether to discontinue play. In making the decision, the controlling body will take account of all relevant factors including the age and health of players and officials, the weather conditions and climate for that part of the country, the level of humidity, the evacuation/ emergency plans for the club/venue and the amount of shade or shelter available at the venue.

WET/COLD WEATHER

- In parts of Australia susceptible to cold and wet weather, it is recommended that clubs have warm clothes and a waterproof jacket as part of their uniform.
- When severe winter weather is forecast, the controlling body should initiate procedures and monitor weather reports. The controlling body may contact local and state agencies for input on weather and road conditions. The controlling body should review such things as the present weather condition and the traffic conditions within the immediate area as well as outlying roads upon which players and officials are arriving. Based on this information, the controlling body will decide whether to cancel play/competition.
- Where available, shelter should be offered for players and officials not involved in current play.

- If the ground is slippery from frost, snow, rain or mud or if the temperature drops below 8 degrees it is at the discretion of the controlling body to determine whether to discontinue play. In making the decision, account should be taken of all relevant factors including the age and health of players and officials, the weather conditions and climate for that part of the country, the wind-chill factor, the evacuation and emergency plans for the club and venue and the amount of shelter available at the venue.
- If it is raining heavily, play/competition should be discontinued for a period of up to 2 hours. If it continues to rain heavily during that time, it is recommended that play/competition be discontinued. The time may vary from venue to venue depending upon the playing surface, the shelter available etc. It is at the discretion of the controlling body to determine whether to discontinue play.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICERS

- CEO

AUTHORITY

- Board of Bowls Australia

REVIEW DATE

- July 2009