

Weather Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to ensure players, volunteers, visitors are aware of the risks associated with training/playing in extreme weather conditions and provide a procedure for determining if play should be postponed or cancelled.

Scope

This procedure applies to all BSNA registered players, BSNU umpires, volunteers and visitors whilst attending or participating in Association sanctioned events.

Responsibilities

The BSNA President is responsible for the management of this procedure.

The BSNA Executive is responsible for reviewing the procedure annually.

The BSNA Committee is responsible for endorsing the procedure annually.

BSNA Executive and BSNU umpires Coordinator are responsible for implementing this procedure.

Definitions

AQI Air Quality Index

WBGT Wet Bulb Globe Temperature. Is a measure of heat stress that considers several environmental and personal factors to determine heat stress.

FDR Fire Danger Rating

Procedure

The BSNA Executive in consultation with the BSNU Umpires Coordinator and Court Supervisor are responsible for determining whether games and/or training is cancelled. Ensuring players and volunteers safety is the highest priority.

Players and volunteers safety is the highest priority and should be taken into consideration when making the decision. Other important factors include:

- Younger children and older players are especially at risk in the heat.
- People with medical conditions ie. asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, heart conditions.
- Effects of weather on the courts ie. after rain the courts can remain slippery. Limited shade available.

1. Consider players and volunteers safety and comfort.
2. Check for severe weather warnings on a reliable weather app.

3. Check weather report, weather graph and 512km loop radar to determine what weather is coming. Turn on lightning indicator if available.
4. Check Fire Danger Index – Code Red – Immediate cancellation.
5. Temperature and Wet Bulb Globe temperature can be checked at <http://www.bom.gov.au/products/IDV65079.shtml#notes>
6. Refer to the table below as a **guide** to helping decide what actions should be taken. This has been developed from Sports Medicine Australia to help your thinking and are not hard and fast rules for each weather event.
7. Notify Association of cancellation as soon as practicable via the Associations Facebook page, loudspeaker if available.

Weather condition	Recommended action	Comments
Hail and/or Lightning	Cancel	
Temperature < 21 – 25 Humidity exceeds 70% WBGT < 20	No restrictions	Younger children are more susceptible to cold weather. Heat illness can occur in marathon running.
Temperature 26 – 30 Humidity exceeds 60% WBGT 21 - 25	Consider modifying activities	Reduce intensity and duration of play/training. Take more breaks.
Temperature 31 – 35 Humidity exceeds 50% WBGT 26 - 29	Consider cancelling or ensuring activity is modified to include extra breaks, water availability, ice if possible.	Uncomfortable for most people. Limit intensity. Take more breaks. Limit duration to less than 60 minutes per session.
Temperature ≥ 36 Humidity exceeds 30% WBGT ≥ 30	Cancel	Very stressful for most people.
Air Quality Index 100 - > 200	Consider cancelling	Sensitive groups should avoid strenuous outdoor activities Everyone else significantly cut back or reschedule strenuous outdoor activities
Air Quality Index 67 – 99	Consider cancelling	People unusually sensitive to air pollution should plan strenuous outdoor activities when air quality improves.
Air Quality Index 0 – 66	No restrictions	
FDR – Extreme or Code Red	Cancel	Extreme - hot, dry, windy conditions Code Red - Highest fire danger rating. No training or play.
FDR – Severe	Consider cancelling after reviewing other weather conditions.	Hot, dry, possibly windy conditions
FDR – Low-Moderate, High or Very High	No restrictions	Monitor conditions.

Heat

If we encounter extreme heat conditions on a day or night of competition, games may be cancelled in advance.

Match conditions may be altered depending on the weather conditions according to the official temperature reading on the Bureau of Meteorology's website.

During the peak temperature period of the day (11am-6pm), there is the possibility that matches may be cancelled.

Teams will be notified if this is case.

To ensure we create the safest environment possible in these hotter conditions, the following strategies may be implemented:

- Water is permitted to be drunk courtside during the game;
- Hats (soft bucket hats, no peak caps) may be worn on outside matches;

Wet Weather

The wet weather policy works to allow games to be played if the courts are deemed safe. The outdoor courts are all-weather courts and safe to be played on when they are wet.

Games will be cancelled under the following circumstances only:

- in the event of heavy rain that impedes on the ability for the game to be played,
- flooding of the courts,
- hail and/or lightning – at which time 20 minutes need to pass before games can re-commence.

Some rain or intermittent rain will not see games cancelled.

Extreme Weather

It is only on very rare occasions that games are cancelled in advance.

With weather as unpredictable as it is, relying on forecasts sometimes even a day in advance can be premature. To this end, the BSNA Executive with assistance from the BSNU Umpire Coordinator will make decisions about cancellations only on the day, and normally on a time slot by time slot basis.

Scoring

Refer to Section 16. Cancellations of the BSNA Bylaws for further information in relation to scoring in the event of a cancelled game.