

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.