



ADVERSE WEATHER POLICY

Scope

This Policy has been created to have a standard Adverse Weather Policy across Associations that compete under a SACA Metropolitan Competitions banner.

Responsibility

This Adverse Weather Policy applies to players, umpires and club/association officials. For conciseness, these are referred to hereafter as “participants”.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that no participant suffers significant health damage due to participating in adverse conditions.

Participating in adverse 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 responsibility for ensuring the safety of individual participants is primarily the responsibility of clubs and the individuals themselves. The association provides the guidelines in this Adverse Weather Policy and makes specific directions and provisions in this policy and the bylaws, to ensure clubs and participants are aware of their responsibilities and have the opportunity to avoid unnecessary risk to individuals.

The individual associations have provisions to cancel play on specific days or vary the starting time and number of overs bowled in any match. Matches will not be cancelled based on the least fit participant, or a participant who may have played in another match or matches in the days prior to the match under consideration, to the detriment of the game and the majority of participants. Individuals have a responsibility to withdraw from participating if their circumstances (such as those outlined above) place them at an unacceptable level of risk; clubs also have responsibility in this regard.

It is important to note that no person is forced to participate in any match.

Policy

SACA/Association Responsibilities:

- Prepare, publish, and disseminate this Adverse Weather Policy, and the Sports Medicine Australia (S.A. Branch) publication “Drink Up” (© SMA SA Branch 2000) in sufficient quantities for clubs to provide copies to all players.
- Provide guidelines and directions to clubs and participants.
- Cancel matches in any grade when a combination of conditions leads to an undue risk of heat illness to a significant proportion of participants in that grade.
- Establish and apply guidelines as to when such cancellations shall be made and establish a group who shall make determinations.
- Ensure the Bylaws and Playing Conditions permit proper health care during matches.

Club Responsibilities:

- Ensure club, team and match officials are aware of this Adverse Weather Policy, and their responsibilities under it.
- Ensure that all participants are provided copies of this policy and the Sports Medicine Australia (S.A. Branch) publication of "Drink Up" (© SMA SA Branch 2000).
- Ensure that individuals are aware of their own responsibilities in regard to preparing themselves for playing in hot conditions, and to withdraw if they are at any undue risk due to individual circumstances.
- Monitor participants and ensure that individuals at particular risk (due, for example, to having played in hot conditions over multiple preceding days, or to having a fitness level lower than most) do not take part in conditions which they are at undue risk.
- Place no pressure on any participant to refrain from withdrawing from any match, or day of a match, or part of a day, for health reasons.
- Ensure participants have every opportunity under the Laws of Cricket and Bylaws to rehydrate during and after participation.

Individual Responsibilities:

- Read and understand this Adverse Weather Policy and the guidelines in the Sports Medicine Australia (S.A. Branch) publication "Drink Up" (© SMA SA Branch 2000).
- Follow the recommendations in "Drink Up" before, during and after preparation.
- In conjunction with your club, assess your own susceptibility to heat stress, using the factors in the introduction to this Adverse Weather Policy.
- Withdraw from participation if you or your club assesses your risk level to be unacceptable.
- Immediately inform club officials and/or seek assistance should you start to feel any of the symptoms of heat injury as listed in "Drink Up".

Guidelines for Umpires/Coaches

Umpires/Coaches who are umpiring may increase the number of drinks breaks during a game if the weather is excessively hot. The weather may be considered as excessively hot when it is 34 degrees Celsius or higher.

In the case of wet weather, it is the responsibility of the umpires/coaches to ensure that the pitch and outfield are suitable for play following wet weather and that the players wellbeing is of primary concern.

Procedure

Heat

Cancellation in advance:

Locations for temperature readings are as follows.

South Central Junior Cricket Association - Adelaide

North Eastern Junior Cricket Association – Windsor Gardens

Western Suburbs Junior Cricket Association – Adelaide Airport

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 & Sunday Afternoon 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 38 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 38 degrees at the venue of the match (as per the BOM app).

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 Competition Administrator(s) via email to metrocomps@saca.com.au by **6pm on the day prior to the match**. The 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. The umpires, or where there are no umpires, the coaches 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.
 - i) The home club, by agreement with the opposition 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

NOTE: If this is agreed, the **home club** must notify the Competition Administrator via email to metrocomps@saca.com.au by **6pm on the day prior to the match**. The Competition Administrator(s) will be responsible for notifying any SACA umpires where relevant.

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 Abandoned in PlayHQ.

Lightning

Play must cease immediately in the event that a lightning flash is followed by thunder less than thirty (30) seconds later. Play must not resume until thirty (30) minutes after the last such lightning flash. Coaches may choose by agreement to abandon the match at the point play ceases, should there be limited prospect of play resuming.