



# Heat & Inclement Weather Policy

## 1. POLICY INTENT & COMPLIANCE

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Bowls SA is conscious of its responsibility to provide direction to its Member Clubs, Sections, Associations and Regions in relation to the conduct of the game of bowls under extreme weather conditions such as heat and humidity, rain, hail, high winds and squalls, lightning and prolonged heat.

The intent of this Policy is to enable play to continue wherever possible, empowering Event Managers to display leadership, consult and make decisions in the interests of good sportsmanship and preserving the safety and well-being of members at all times.

As such the following Bowls SA Heat & Inclement Weather Policy has been developed after research and consultation with appropriate bodies.

The Bowls SA Heat & Inclement Weather Policy is recommended for adoption by Member Clubs, Sections, Associations and Regions.

In all instances the Bureau of Meteorology 1196 Weather Service (Adelaide area) or website [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au) for your closest weather station, is to be used to access the current or forecast temperature, rainfall, potential high winds and squalls, lightning or the Fire Danger rating for the local area.

### Non Adoption or Breach of Policy

Member Clubs, Sections, Associations and Regions that breach, or choose not to adopt, the Bowls SA Heat & Inclement Weather Policy will be required to source their own adequate insurance cover.

Bowls SA recommends that all levels of Member Clubs, Sections, Associations and Regions governance record the adoption of a Heat & Inclement Weather Policy.

## 2. HEAT & INCLEMENT WEATHER

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### a. Heat

**Play must not proceed in any capacity if the temperature reaches 38 degrees Celsius or more on the Bureau of Meteorology 1196 Weather Service (Adelaide area) or the Bureau of Meteorology website [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au) for your closest weather station.**

**When the Bureau of Meteorology or Country Fire Service declare a day of Catastrophic Fire Danger (100+ reading), all bowls must be cancelled in the area affected.**

**To access the current temperature for Adelaide phone 1196.**

### b. Inclement Weather

Inclement weather includes rain, hail, high winds, squalls and lightning.

Before commencing a scheduled event, the Event Manager, Umpire of the Day and/or Greens Manager or their proxy will be responsible to assess the expected weather conditions for the duration of the event.

When play has commenced and the weather conditions deteriorate, play may be stopped by the Event Managers, Umpire of the Day and/or Greens Manager or their proxy on the grounds that the greens are closed or the weather conditions are such that continuing play would constitute a breach of duty of care.

When the Greens Manager or their proxy has closed the greens, play shall not be resumed without the permission of the Greens Manager or their proxy.

If play has been stopped it shall not be resumed without permission of the Event Manager and/or Umpire of the Day. Play will be cancelled for the day if it is not possible to resume after one hour from the time of the last stoppage. Play shall not be cancelled until the expiry of the hour from the last stoppage.

In regional areas when inclement weather is forecast, the controlling body's Event Manager is required to monitor Bureau of Meteorology weather reports for local weather conditions and initiate procedures to cancel, or if feasible, postpone play or modify the Conditions of Play for the event.

In all cases players will be advised of the reschedule date for the postponed games, by Bowls SA or the controlling body, as soon as practicable.

### **c. Lightning**

Lightning can occur without other typical storm characteristics (i.e. thunder, rain and wind) being present.

Bowls SA is committed to ensuring that all players, officials, administrators and spectators are safe during lightning activity.

When lightning is sighted by the Event Manager or Umpire of the Day, play will be suspended and all players will be required to leave the green immediately and move to a safe structure.

No place is absolutely safe from lightning strikes, but the Event Manager or Umpire of the Day is to ensure that all parties are made aware of the location's safe areas.

SAFER areas include:

- Enclosed vehicles with windows closed (car, bus). Do not touch metal parts.
- Substantial enclosed buildings
- Low ground, sheltering in clumps of low bushes
- Trees of uniform height i.e. forest

UNSAFE areas include:

- High ground
- Open ground
- Water
- Isolated or tall trees
- Near outdoor metal structures such as shade shelters, fences, flag poles, gates, seats, steps, hand rails, boundary pegs
- Equipment such as Bowling Arms, bowls lifters, bowls rakes, umbrella, etc.

When the Event Manager or Umpire of the Day deems it safe to return to the green, play should resume as per the Laws of the Sport of Bowls, Law 50.

### **3. DUTY OF CARE**

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- a. In all circumstances Member Clubs, Sections, Associations and Regions are urged to ensure a duty of care of participants by exercising caution and regularly monitoring the temperature and any potential inclement weather conditions before commencing, continuing or terminating Pennants, Championship Events, Open Tournaments, training and trial matches and Social and Night Bowls.
- b. If the forecast temperature is 35 degrees or more it is the responsibility of Member Clubs, Sections, Associations and Regions to monitor, at regular intervals of no longer than 30 minutes, the temperature during all practice and play and cease play when the temperature reaches 38 degrees Celsius.
- c. Bowls SA is committed to the safety and well-being of its Members and those playing bowls throughout South Australia. The following directions have been developed with the duty of care of participants as a paramount consideration, whilst enabling all members to participate in a safe environment.

### **4. MEMBER CLUBS & PLAYER'S RESPONSIBILITY**

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- a. In addition to adopting and applying a Heat & Inclement Weather Policy before commencing, continuing or terminating any Club events, Member Clubs have the responsibility to ensure that they exercise a duty of care to all players by providing adequate breaks, water for player hydration, and shade and sun protection products on all days of play.
- b. Players also have a personal responsibility to ensure that they apply sound self-management practices to minimise any likely effects of heat on their health and well-being.
- c. Cancer Council Australia recommends protecting the eyes from UV at all times when outdoors during daylight hours by wearing close-fitting wraparound sunglasses and a broad-brimmed, bucket or legionnaire style hat to protect the eyes from ultraviolet (UV) radiation.
- d. Any player who considers that the effects of prolonged heat or the forecast temperature for the day of play will have an adverse effect on their health, safety and well-being can withdraw from the competition or event without penalty.
- e. Such withdrawal may also occur during the course of play where the temperature on the green is at a level that the player considers places them at risk.

## 5. METROPOLITAN PENNANTS

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For the Heat & Inclement Weather Policy applicable to metropolitan pennant competitions please refer to the Premier, Major and Metropolitan Leagues Program - Conditions of Play.

## 6. COUNTRY PENNANTS

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For the Heat & Inclement Weather Policy applicable to country pennant competitions please refer to the relevant Association or Section Conditions of Play.

## 7. BOWLS SA EVENTS & TRAINING

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- a. Bowls SA may determine the conditions under which play in a Bowls SA conducted event may commence, continue or be terminated due to extreme weather.
- b. In the event of extreme weather, Bowls SA reserves the right to alter the Conditions of Play for any Bowls SA conducted event to ensure that play continues whilst maintaining a duty of care to all participants and volunteers involved in the event.
- c. Any player who nominates for a Bowls SA conducted event shall be deemed to have accepted the Bowls SA Heat & Inclement Weather Policy conditions applicable to that event, but may withdraw from the event as per clauses 4d and 4e of this policy.
- d. Bowls SA reserves the right to cancel a State Event or postpone rounds if the event has already commenced, two days prior, if the forecast temperature is deemed to be excessive during times of prolonged heat.

### Regional Qualifying Rounds

If the Bureau of Meteorology website temperature for the local postcode on the day of play is forecast to be 38 degrees Celsius or above play, two days prior to the event, the rounds will be postponed and players advised of a reschedule date as determined by the Region.

### Metropolitan Qualifying Rounds

At 4.30pm two days prior to the scheduled event, if on the Bureau of Meteorology website the Adelaide forecast is 38 degrees Celsius or above for the day of play, the Bowls SA Event Manager will postpone play to an alternate day or time.

### Major Events

- *Country Carnivals*
- *Country Round Robins*
- *Prestige Medleys*
- *Schroeter, Kennedy & Under 18 Shields*
- *Champions Week*
- *Under 18 Championships*
- *Seniors Supa Series*

At 4.30pm two days prior to the scheduled event, if on the Bureau of Meteorology website the Adelaide forecast is 38 degrees Celsius or above for the day of play, the Bowls SA Event Manager will cancel or, if feasible, postpone play to an alternate day or time, which may include the option of playing morning or night games and modifying the Conditions of Play, i.e. reducing the number of ends whilst maintaining a duty of care to all participants and volunteers involved in the event.

In making the decision to play at an alternate time, the Bowls SA Event Manager will take into account all relevant factors including the age and health of players and officials, prolonged heat, the level of humidity, the Club's evacuation and emergency plans and the amount of shade or shelter available.

In the event of high humidity, the Event Manager may, prior to the commencement of all games, announce that up to three 10 minute breaks will be taken during play at times as determined.

If the temperature on the day of play is forecast to reach less than 38 degrees all major events will commence as scheduled however, if considered necessary due to deteriorating weather conditions such as extreme heat, inclement weather or lightning:

- At the discretion of Bowls SA and the Event Manager the Conditions of Play may be modified which may include scheduling night games.
- Play may be stopped by appeal of a player/team to the Umpire of the Day or Event Manager. If the Umpire of the Day or Event Manager determines that conditions warrant cessation of play they may act on their decision

without right of appeal. Play will be cancelled for the day if it is not possible to resume after one hour from the time of the last stoppage.

#### **SA Representative Events**

If the temperature for the day of play is forecast to reach 38 degrees Celsius or inclement weather or lightning is forecast on the Bureau of Meteorology website for the local area, South Australia's Side Manager, in consultation with their opponents Side Manager, will discuss commencing, postponing, rescheduling, cancelling or modifying the Conditions of Play.

#### **Squad Training**

If the temperature for the day of Squad Training is forecast to reach 38 degrees Celsius on the Bureau of Meteorology website Adelaide forecast at 4.30pm, two days prior to the training, the Squad Training will be cancelled. The training may, if necessary, may be rescheduled to the evening, at the discretion of Bowls SA.

Bowls SA reserves the right to cancel Squad Training, two days prior, if the forecast temperature is deemed to be excessive during times of prolonged extreme weather.

#### **8. BOWLS AUSTRALIA EVENTS**

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The Bowls Australia Extreme Weather Policy, is available on the Bowls Australia website [www.bowlsaustralia.com.au](http://www.bowlsaustralia.com.au) and will apply for all Bowls Australia conducted events.