

## ADG BAD WEATHER GUIDELINES

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Reviewed January 2020

### PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for Tournament directors (TDs) and players to reduce the risks posed by bad weather including extreme heat, storms, bushfires, poor air quality and flooding.

### SCOPE

Players have the best knowledge of their own health and ability to play in different conditions and should make their own decisions about whether it is safe for them to play. These guidelines are intended to guide TDs about considerations to make in the event of bad weather and steps they can take to reduce risks at their event. It is critical that TDs place the safety of their players, staff, and spectators above all else.

### CONSIDERATIONS

The following should be considered when running an event:

- Course closures – Local emergency services and councils announce park closures via websites and other means. If there is any chance a course may be closed these sources should be checked.
- Hot weather poses a health hazard. Consider reorganising play times or cancelling events above 36°. Sport Australia provides the following advice (Noting that these guidelines are generally for high activity sports):

Ambient temperature	Relative humidity	Risk of thermal injury	Possible modifying action for vigorous sustained activity
15 – 20°		Low	Heat illness can occur in distance running. Caution over-motivation
21 - 25°	> 60%	Low – mod	Increase vigilance. Caution over-motivation
26 - 30°	> 50%	Moderate	Moderate early pre-season intensity. Reduce intensity and duration of training/play. Take more breaks.
31 – 35°	> 30%	High – very high	Limit intensity; Limit duration of activity to less than 60 mins per session.
36° & above	> 25%	Extreme	Consider postponement to a cooler part of the day or cancellation.

- If lightning is seen during play use the 30/30 rule to assess danger:
  - Clear the course immediately the flash-to-bang gap is less than 30 seconds
  - Seek shelter in a large permanent structure or enclosed metal vehicle or if there is no shelter, crouch down with feet together preferably 20m away from solitary tall objects.
  - Only return to the playing field once 30 minutes has elapsed since the last lightning strike
- Air quality poses a health hazard. When bushfire smoke or dust is present in your area you should consult local Air quality indexes- Each state rates this differently. Events should be cancelled when air quality is rated “Very poor” (NSW) or “Very unhealthy for all” (ACT). As a guide this is the advice provide in NSW.

Air Quality Index (AQI)	Category	What does it mean?
0-33	Very good	Enjoy normal activities.
34-66	Good	Enjoy normal activities.

67-99	Fair	People unusually sensitive to air pollution should reduce or reschedule strenuous outdoor activities. Others are not likely to be affected when the AQI is in this range.
100-149	Poor	Sensitive groups should reduce or reschedule strenuous outdoor activities. Other adults are not likely to be affected when the AQI is in this range.
150-199	Very poor	Sensitive groups should avoid strenuous outdoor activities. Other adults should reduce or reschedule strenuous outdoor activities.
200+	Hazardous	Sensitive groups should avoid all outdoor activities. Other adults should avoid strenuous outdoor activities.

## REDUCING RISKS

When planning your event there are certain actions that can help to reduce the risks associated with bad weather events:

- Schedule events keeping in mind the local weather conditions at that time of year.
- Local weather forecasts should be checked for the day of play.
- Where possible, minimise scheduled play during expected high temperature times of day.
- Ensure there is adequate water and shelter at the course.
- Provide Sunscreen
- Ensure there is a way to warn players that play is being suspended, such as an air horn, and that players are aware of what the warning and procedure for stopping play is.
- If a decision is made to cancel an event prior to it starting TDs need to make sure that this decision is communicated to all players through mailing lists and event pages.

## USEFUL REFERENCES

- PDGA guidelines around suspending play [https://www.pdga.com/files/pdga\\_mid-event\\_suspension\\_and\\_cancellation\\_guidelines\\_-\\_final.pdf](https://www.pdga.com/files/pdga_mid-event_suspension_and_cancellation_guidelines_-_final.pdf)
- Advice on playing sport in hot weather <https://sma.org.au/resources-advice/policies-and-guidelines/hot-weather/>
- Weather forecasts <http://www.bom.gov.au/>
- AFDA policies-hot weather, lightening and sun protection <https://afda.com/policies>
- Air quality indexes NSW <https://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/air-quality>; ACT <https://www.health.act.gov.au/about-our-health-system/population-health/environmental-monitoring/monitoring-and-regulating-air-0>