

Extreme Weather Policy

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Extreme Weather Policy is to ensure that best practices are adhered to in the interests of its members, officials, visitors and spectators' health and wellbeing. Diggers Memorial Bowls Club is concerned that its members participation in the game of bowls is conducted in the safest environment possible and with minimum risk of harm.

The decision whether to suspend or discontinue play is at the discretion of the umpire/controlling body.

Diggers Memorial Bowls Club has provided the following guidelines in assisting the umpire/controlling body through the decision-making process.

[Definition of Controlling Body refers to the Games Director in consultation with Men's and or Ladies' Bowls Presidents].

2. Temperatures

Temperatures referred to in this policy are guidelines only and are not binding.

3. Guidelines

- i. Additional care should be considered where elderly and under 18's persons are participating; due care is to be taken in extreme weather conditions.
- ii. In the event of an emergency, Club evacuation and emergency policies and procedures should be followed.
- iii. Players and/or officials should ring the Club phone number if they are in doubt as to the state of play on any given day.
- iv. Where possible, the Club will continue play or competition where they are able to do so however, player and officials' safety will remain the paramount consideration.
- v. The umpire/controlling body could suspend play/competition for up to 2 hours if the adverse weather conditions are likely to improve. Where conditions are not likely to improve in that time, the umpire/controlling body should cancel the play/competition for that day and reschedule, if necessary.
- vi. The umpire/controlling body may approve rescheduling play/competition to another day or weekend if the umpire/controlling body determines that conditions are unsafe for players, officials and/or spectators. Typical reasons for this include consistent heavy rain, slippery conditions, extreme heat, bad light and lightning.

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- vii. If play/competition is to be cancelled and rescheduled, the umpire/controlling body will use their best endeavours to notify participants. The umpire/controlling body will determine the most appropriate method of communication and might consider social media, newsletter, phone calls and/or emails.
 - i. When a game has been disrupted and some games have not completed the required number of ends, the controlling body will be able to adjust score cards to reflect a fair outcome for all players. If a circumstance arises when a game or games have not reached a suitable number of ends completed, the controlling body could declare that game/games void and therefore not be considered for any prize money.
 - ii. Dependent of the circumstances, a decision will be made by the Games Director in consultation with the Men's and Ladies' Bowls Presidents in relation to refunding any fees. When games are cancelled and no winner can be established, players will have the choice of a monetary refund or a carryover credit for their next game at Diggers Memorial Bowls Club.

4. Hot Weather

- i. Players, officials and spectators should at all times be encouraged to wear hats and sun protection clothing.
- ii. Players, officials and spectators are encouraged to drink water or other non-alcoholic drinks.
- iii. When the temperature reaches 35°C, play/competition can be interrupted at regular intervals for a short period of time at the discretion of the controlling body to allow players to hydrate.
- iv. The temperature reading should be taken from a ventilated location, not in direct sunlight, which will allow a general reading.
- v. Where the temperature reaches 38°C, it is recommended that play/competition be discontinued.
- vi. It will be at the discretion of the umpire/controlling body to determine whether to discontinue play. In making the decision, the umpire/controlling body will take account of all relevant factors including the age and health of players and officials, the weather conditions, the level of humidity, the amount of shade or shelter available.
- vii. The umpire/controlling body must take serious considerations upon a complaint and request from a player or players playing in the play/competition about the playing conditions as set out above at the time that the request is made.

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5. Wet or Cold Weather

- i. When severe weather is forecast, the umpire/controlling body should initiate procedures and monitor weather reports. Consideration will be given to the present weather conditions and the traffic conditions within the immediate area as well as outlying roads upon which players and officials may be required to use. Based on this information, the umpire/controlling body will decide whether to cancel play/competition.
- ii. If the ground is slippery from rain or mud or if the temperature drops below 8°C it is at the discretion of the umpire/controlling body whether to discontinue play. In making the decision account should be taken of all relevant factors including the age and health of players and officials, the weather conditions, the wind-chill factor, the evacuation and emergency plans for the club and the amount of shelter available at the venue.
- iii. If it is raining heavily, play/competition should be discontinued for up to 2 hours. If it continues to rain heavily during that time, it is recommended that play/competition be discontinued. The time may vary depending upon the playing surface, the shelter available etc. It is at the discretion of the umpire/controlling body to determine whether to discontinue play.
- iv. The umpire/controlling body must consider all facts as set out above upon a request from a player or players about the weather conditions being experienced at that time.

6. Lightning

- i. At all times when experiencing a lightning storm all play/competition must cease immediately until the lightning storm passes. There is to be no variation to this type of extreme weather.
- ii. If the lightning storm has not passed within 2 hours and the lightning storm continues then it is recommended that play/competition be discontinued.
- iii. The umpire/controlling body must then arrange a new time for the play/competition to continue and advise all officials and players of their decision if necessary.

7. Sun Protection

- i. The Club has a commitment towards sun protection from the harmful effects of the sun. The Club encourages all members, officials, visitors and spectators of bowls to comply with the Diggers Memorial Bowls Club Inc. Sun Protection Policy.

8. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Club Committee or sooner if required.