

# G (x) POLICY- EXTREME WEATHER



**BELMONT  
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BOWLS  
CLUB**

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## POLICY- EXTREME WEATHER

This Policy is to be

- prominently displayed on the Club Notice Board; and,
- brought to the notice of members regularly.

### Part 1 Introduction

#### 1) Definition

- a) In this policy the term Extreme Weather is confined to the following conditions- Heat, Wet Weather and Thunderstorms.

#### 2) Purpose

- a) The Club is committed to providing a safe environment for members, visitors, volunteers, employees, contractors and guests participating in bowls and other outdoor activities.
- b) This policy establishes procedures for managing extreme weather conditions, including:
  - i) Hot weather and heat stress
  - ii) Heavy rain and wet playing conditions
  - iii) Thunderstorms and lightning
  - iv) Other weather conditions that may present a safety risk.
- c) The Club adopts a proactive approach to minimise risks and a reactive approach to respond effectively should an emergency occur.

### Part 2 Club Policy

#### 3) Scope

- a) This policy applies to all members, visitors, barefoot bowlers, pennant and competition players, coaches and officials, volunteers, employers, contractors, spectators, and any person participating in activities conducted by the club.

### DIVISION 1 Heat

#### 4) Heat Policy Principles

- a) The Club recognises that preventing weather-related illness or injury is a shared responsibility involving:
  - i) **ME – Individual Responsibility**
    - (1) Every participant is responsible for:
      - (a) Monitoring their own health and wellbeing.
      - (b) Drinking sufficient water before and during play.
      - (c) Wearing appropriate sun protection including hats, sunscreen and suitable clothing.
      - (d) Using cooling aids where appropriate.
      - (e) Taking breaks whenever required.
      - (f) Advising the umpire or controlling body, if they feel unwell.

- (g) Participants who are ill, dehydrated or suffering from a medical condition that may increase heat-related risk should not participate.

## ii) YOU – Responsibility to Others

- (1) All participants are encouraged to:
  - (a) Look after fellow bowlers.
  - (b) Watch for signs of heat stress or illness.
  - (c) Encourage others to take breaks and hydrate.
  - (d) Report concerns immediately to the umpire or controlling body.

## iii) WE – Club Responsibility

- (1) Belmont Services Bowls Club will:
  - (a) Promote awareness of extreme weather risks.
  - (b) Provide cooled drinking water free of charge.
  - (c) Encourage the use of appropriate sun protection.
  - (d) Monitor weather conditions before and during play.
  - (e) Communicate weather risks to players.
  - (f) Modify, suspend or cancel play when conditions become unsafe.
  - (g) Ensure first aid equipment is readily available.
  - (h) Contact emergency services whenever required.

## 5) Hot Weather Management

- a) The Club will monitor local weather conditions using the Bureau of Meteorology forecast together with on-site temperature and humidity readings where available.
- b) The Club will use either-
  - i) The Heat Index ("Feels Like" Temperature) as a guide; or
  - ii) A combination of Ambient Temperature, WBGT and Relative Humidity data provided by BOM.

## 6) Heat Index Guidelines

- a) **Feels Like 33°C**
  - i) Players should take additional care.
  - ii) Increase hydration.
  - iii) Encourage voluntary rest breaks.
  - iv) Officials should monitor participants.
- b) **Feels Like 41°C**
  - i) Mandatory drink breaks are to be introduced at the direction of the umpire or controlling body.
  - ii) Extra monitoring of vulnerable participants.
  - iii) Consider shortening games where practical.
- c) **Feels Like 51°C**
  - i) Play must be suspended until conditions improve.

## 7) Ambient Temperature, WBGT and Relative Humidity Data

- a) Play must cease when any of the following thresholds are exceeded and cannot recommence until the level(s) is/are back within tolerance.

| Category            | Ambient Temperature | WBGT | Relative Humidity | Recommended Action |
|---------------------|---------------------|------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Open Age Events     | 38°                 | 32°  | 70%               | Suspend Play       |
| Senior Events (60+) | 38°                 | 32°  | 70%               | Suspend Play       |
| Para Events         | 36°                 | 32°  | 70%               | Suspend Play       |
| Under 18 Events     | 38°                 | 32°  | 70%               | Suspend Play       |

Notes:

- a) WBGT means Wet Bulb Globe Temperature.

- b) These heat risks have been determined with reference to-
  1. Sports Medicine Australia Guidelines (Sport Medicine Australia Extreme Heat Policy v1.0 February 2021) <https://sma-heat-policy.sydney.edu.au/> ; and,
  2. the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) <https://www.bom.gov.au/products/IDQ65214.shtml> .
- c) Weather readings shall be taken from the closest BOM location to the Club, or by taking local readings where the Club reasonably believes localised conditions may significantly differ, in which case those readings shall be used for the implementation of this policy.

## 8) Club discretion

- a) The Club will take serious consideration upon a complaint or request from a player or players in social play/competition about the playing conditions at the time when the request is made.
- b) Regardless of the Heat Index or other data from BOM, the umpire or controlling body may suspend or abandon play whenever conditions are considered to be unsafe.
- c) Under this policy the Club also has an overriding discretion to pause play or delay the recommencement of play should the Club be not satisfied that conditions are safe to resume.
- d) In making this decision consideration should include:
  - i) Age of participants;
  - ii) Medical conditions;
  - iii) Humidity;
  - iv) Wind conditions;
  - v) Duration of play;
  - vi) Player complaints or concerns; and,
  - vii) Medical advice where appropriate.
- e) Any complaint, at any time, from a participant regarding heat, must be taken seriously.

## 9) Heat Stress Awareness

- a) Participants should be familiar with the signs of:
  - i) Heat rash;
  - ii) Heat cramps;
  - iii) Heat exhaustion; and,
  - iv) Heat stroke.
- b) Common symptoms include:
  - i) Excessive fatigue;
  - ii) Dizziness;
  - iii) Headache;
  - iv) Nausea;
  - v) Muscle cramps;
  - vi) Confusion;
  - vii) Hot dry skin;
  - viii) Collapse; and,
  - ix) Loss of consciousness
- c) Heat stroke is a medical emergency.

## 10) Responding to Heat Illness

- a) If a participant is suspected of suffering heat exhaustion or heat stroke:
  - i) Stop play immediately.
  - ii) Move the person into shade or an air-conditioned area.
  - iii) Cool the body using wet towels, cold water or ice packs.
  - iv) Provide cool drinking water, if conscious.
  - v) Call **000** immediately, if heat stroke is suspected.
  - vi) Continue first aid until medical assistance arrives.

## DIVISION 2 Wet Weather

### 11) Wet Weather

- a) Play may be delayed, suspended or cancelled where:
  - i) Greens become unsafe.
  - ii) Standing water develops.
  - iii) Surfaces become slippery.
  - iv) Heavy rainfall prevents safe play.
  - v) Visibility is significantly reduced.
  - vi) The Greenkeeper or Match Committee or Bowls Manager determines continued play may damage the greens.
- b) The Greenkeeper (or delegated official) has authority to close the greens whenever necessary to protect both players and playing surfaces.

## DIVISION 3 Thunderstorms and Lightning

### 12) Thunderstorms and Lightning

- a) Lightning presents an immediate risk to life.
- b) When thunderstorms approach:
  - i) Monitor Bureau of Meteorology warnings.
  - ii) Suspend play immediately if lightning is observed nearby or thunder is heard.
  - iii) Direct all participants to safe shelter.
- c) Safe shelter includes:
  - i) The Clubhouse.
  - ii) A fully enclosed motor vehicle.
- d) Do **not** shelter:
  - i) Under trees.
  - ii) Beside flagpoles.
  - iii) Under shade structures that are not enclosed.
  - iv) Near fences or metal objects.
  - v) On the greens.
- e) Play must not resume until **30 minutes after the last observed lightning or thunder**.
- f) If lightning strikes a person:
  - i) Call **000** immediately.
  - ii) Commence first aid, including CPR if required.
  - iii) Use an AED if available.
  - iv) Continue treatment until emergency services arrive.

## DIVISION 4 Communication, Authorisation, References

### 13) Communication

- a) From November to March each year the Club will regularly communicate heat awareness information through:
  - i) Email;
  - ii) Newsletters;
  - iii) Noticeboards;
  - iv) Social media;
  - v) Public announcements; and,
  - vi) Electronic displays where available.
- b) Information will include:
  - i) Heat stress awareness;
  - ii) Hydration advice;
  - iii) Weather forecasts;
  - iv) Club procedures; and,

- v) Sun safety reminders.

#### 14) Authority to Suspend Play

- a) The following persons have authority to suspend, postpone or cancel play due to weather conditions:
  - i) Match Committee;
  - ii) Umpire;
  - iii) Controlling Body;
  - iv) Club Management;
  - v) Bowls Manager; and,
  - vi) Greenkeeper (for green closures)
- (1) If the Greenkeeper is not on site at that time when a decision is to be made, then the following specific criteria are to be applied:
  - ii) **Critical Damage Triggers**
    - (1) Play on the green must stop when-
      - (a) Puddles or pooling on the surface appear and do not drain almost instantly.
      - (b) Water squirts out or shoes sink visibly into the turf when walking.
      - (c) Footprints or steps leave permanent indents deeper than 2 millimetres
      - (d) Bowls push mud/sand aside, leaving lines that alter the true flat bias line of the roll of a bowl.
  - ii) **Operational Safety Thresholds**
    - (1) Play is prohibited and the green is closed, if the green fails one or more of these tests or conditions-
      - (a) The Heel Test: If a normal step squeezes free water around the shoe sole; or,
      - (b) The Bowl Roll Test: If a delivered bowl pushes a bow-wave of water or creates a depression trail; or,
    - (b) Root Shear Risk: If turning or pivoting by a player on saturated turf will more than likely increase the risk of shearing the grass roots from the soil base, in effect killing the sward.

#### b) **Safety shall always take precedence over competition.**

#### 15) References

- a) This policy should be read in conjunction with:
  - i) Bowls Australia Extreme Weather Guidelines;
  - ii) Bowls Queensland Conditions of Play;
  - iii) Safe Work Australia – Working in Heat;
  - iv) Bureau of Meteorology Severe Weather Warnings; and,
  - v) Queensland Health Heatwave Information.

### Part 3 Administrative Details

- a) First issued: .....
- b) Current Version: 01
- c) Approved/Issued .....
- d) Review: as required but no later than 2029