

EXTREME HEAT POLICY – 2023/24

SCOPE

The SCA's Extreme Heat Policy applies to all Players, Player Support Personnel and Match Officials (collectively known as Participants) involved in any Sydney Cricket Association (SCA) competition.

In adopting the Policy, the SCA consulted with Cricket Australia's Chief Medical Officer, together with club officials and the NSWCUA.

INTRODUCTION

This policy aims to ensure that decisions made during conditions of extreme heat are objective and automatic for the benefit of players, umpires and administrators.

It is recognised that SCA matches are not resourced with medical and emergency support to the extent of First Class matches and therefore it may be unsafe to continue play during conditions of extreme heat.

APPLICATION

This Policy shall apply to all NSW Premier Cricket, Shires and Women's Premier Cricket matches.

1. TEMPERATURE THRESHOLD

Where a temperature threshold is stated, the following measurements shall apply.

- a) **Air Temperature** is a measure of how hot or cold the air is. It is the most commonly measured weather parameter;
- b) **Feels Like Temperature:** The "Feels like" temperature is a measurement of how hot or cold it really feels like outside. The "Feels Like" temperature relies on environmental data including the ambient air temperature, relative humidity and wind speed to determine how weather conditions feel to bare skin. The "feels like" temperature may vary from the air temperature depending on the level of humidity and wind.

2. SMARTPHONE APP

The **BOM (Bureau of Meteorology) Weather App** is to be the official App for sourcing temperature data. The App displays the actual air temperature as well as the "feels like" temperature at a particular location. Smartphone location settings must be enabled. Alternative weather apps may be used if the BOM App's data appears to be inaccurate or not up to date.

3. ADDITIONAL DRINKS INTERVALS AND EXTENDED INTERVALS

Prior to the commencement of play, the umpires and captains shall conduct a heat safety briefing –

- a) to determine increasing the number and duration of drinks intervals and allowing players and umpires to leave the field of play during drinks intervals; and
- b) to determine whether to extend the duration of lunch and/or afternoon tea intervals.

4. CESSATION, RESUMPTION AND ABANDONMENT OF PLAY

- a) Cessation of Play: In the event that either the Air temperature or the "Feels Like" temperature reaches or exceeds 42 degrees Celsius, the umpires shall cease play.

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- b) Resumption of Play: Following a cessation of play under 4 (a) above, play shall only resume if the air temperature drops to, or below, 38 degrees Celsius within 1 hour after a cessation of play, otherwise, the day's play shall be abandoned.
- c) Abandonment of Play:
 - i. The day's play shall be abandoned in the event that play does not resume within 1 hour after a cessation of play (refer 4b above); or
 - ii. Notwithstanding 4 (c) (i) above, the umpires, in consultation with the captains, may abandon the day's play immediately following a cessation, if the BOM App's hourly forecast does not show a fall in temperature to 38 degrees within 1 hour after the cessation. In other words, there may be no requirement to wait 1 hour before a decision is made to abandon the day's play.
- d) There shall be no discretion to allow a resumption of that day's play once play has been abandoned due to extreme heat.

5. PLAYER HEALTH AND WELFARE

Notwithstanding (4) above, the umpires shall have the sole discretion to abandon play if they consider that, to continue play during prolonged or excessive heat, it would be dangerous to the health and welfare of any, or all, of the participants. To assist the umpires in exercising their discretion, they may –

- a) take into account any apparent signs of heat stress being displayed by any of the participants.
- b) refer to an air temperature thermometer, if properly installed in the shade at the match venue.

6. REVIEW OF MATCH RESULT

Where a club considers that the application of the Extreme Heat Policy has created an outcome that has disadvantaged its team, it may lodge a written submission to the SCA requesting a review of the match result.

A submission shall only be made in consideration of the following –

- a) where the match was drawn and a club considers its chances of a win on first innings were disadvantaged by the application of the Policy; or
- b) where a club considers its chances of outright victory were disadvantaged by the application of the Policy, despite a result already being achieved on first innings.

Any club wishing the SCA to adjudicate on any dispute in connection with the application of the Extreme Heat Policy, shall, within 1 working day after the completion of the match, forward to the SCA a clear submission in writing (no more than one page in length) signed by the Secretary or other Office-Bearer of the club.

Consideration and adjudication of submissions will be carried out by the SCA.

Powers of the SCA

The SCA's powers include, but are not limited to, the power to:

- i. dismiss a submission that fails to address how the Extreme Heat Policy has created a disadvantage to a team as outlined in 6(a) and 6(b) above;
- ii. deduct such competition points from, or award competition points to, either team in a match, as the SCA in its absolute discretion thinks fit;

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7. ADVANCE CANCELLATION OF AN ENTIRE DAY’S PLAY

The SCA has the power to cancel a day’s play in the event that, on the day prior to scheduled play, the forecast temperature is 44 degrees or more.

8. AMENDMENT TO PLAYING TIME

By monitoring 7-day temperature forecasts and seeking to maximise opportunities for play during times of extreme heat, the SCA has the power to reschedule the start of play to 9.00am in any match, in order to maximise the opportunity for play during a cooler time of day.

The SCA will seek to provide clubs with ample advance notice that an amendment to playing time may be imminent.

All participants in every match are to strive to maximise opportunities to play.
