



# Bowls Queensland Extreme Weather Policy

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Extremes in Australian weather raise the question about Bowls Queensland's policy in relation to stopping play or competition when severe weather strikes and Bowls Queensland has a responsibility to ensure that best practices are adhered to in the interests of its members Health and wellbeing. Bowls Queensland is concerned that its members participation in the game of bowls in the safest environment possible and with minimum risk of harm.

Weather conditions can vary greatly throughout Australia and Bowls Queensland does not intend to second-guess the judgement of the Umpire or Controlling Body at any game. The decision whether to suspend or discontinue play is at the discretion of the Umpire/Controlling Body. Bowls Queensland has provided the following guidelines in assisting the Umpire/Controlling Body in making that decision.

## GENERAL GUIDELINES

- **All temperatures referred to in this policy are guidelines only and are not binding.**
- Each club should have in place evacuation and emergency policies and procedures and should conduct an evacuation drill at least once in each 12-month period.
- Each club/controlling body should provide a contact phone number that players and officials can ring if they are in doubt as to the state of play on any given day.
- Bowls Queensland advises where possible, clubs/controlling Body should usually continue play or competition where they are able to do so however, player and official's safety will remain the paramount consideration.
- The umpire/controlling body should suspend play/competition for up to 2 hours if the adverse weather conditions may improve. Where conditions have not improved in that time, the umpire/controlling body should cancel the play/competition for that day and reschedule.
- 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 or spectators. Typical reasons for this include consistent heavy rain, slippery conditions, extreme heat or cold, snow, bad light and lightning.
- 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 community radio, newsletter, phone calls or e-mails.
- Each club/controlling body should have its own policy as to refunding any fees to those participants who are unable to play/complete at the rescheduled time when the play/competition is cancelled due to adverse weather.

### **HOT WEATHER**

- Players, officials and spectators should at all times be encouraged to wear head hats or other head protection. It is recommended that a hat be part of club uniform.
- Drinks should be available at every venue where play/competition takes place. Tap water should be available free of charge and in unlimited quantities. Other drinks may be served or sold as determined by each club.
- When the temperature reaches 35°C, play/competition can be interrupted at regular intervals for a short period of time (at the conclusion of the current end), during which time drinks should be made available.
- The temperature reading should be taken from a ventilated location, not in direct sunlight, which will allow a general reading.
- Where available, shelter should be offered for players and officials not involved in current play.
- Where the temperature reaches 40°C, it is recommended that play/competition be discontinued.
- 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 and climate for that part of the country, the level of humidity, the evacuation and emergency plans of the club and venue and the amount of shade or shelter available at the venue.
- The umpire/controlling body must take serious considerations upon a complaint and request from a player, players playing in the play/competition about the playing conditions as set out above at the time that the request is made.

### **WET/COLD WEATHER**

- In parts of Queensland susceptible to cold and wet weather, it is recommended that clubs/controlling body's have warm clothes and a waterproof jacket as part of their uniform.
- When severe weather is forecast, the umpire/controlling body should initiate procedures and monitor weather reports. He/she/they may contact local and state agencies for input on weather and road conditions. He/she/they should review such things as the present weather conditions and the traffic conditions within the immediate area as well as outlying roads upon which players and officials are arriving. Based on this information, the umpire/controlling Body will decide whether to cancel play/competition.
- Where available, shelter should be offered for players and officials not involved in current play.
- If the ground is slippery from frost, snow, 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 and climate for that parts of the country, the wind-chill factor, the evacuation and emergency plans for the club and venue and the amount of shelter available at the venue.
- If it is raining heavily, play/competition should be discontinued for a period of 2 hours. If it continues to rain heavily during that time, it is recommended that play/competition be discontinued. The time may vary from venue to venue 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.
- 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.

### **LIGHTNING**

- At all times when experiencing a lightning storm at the venue all play/competition must cease immediately until the lightning storm passes. There is to be no variation to this type of extreme weather.
- If the lightning storm has not passed within 2 hours and the lightning storm continues then it is recommended that play/competition be discontinued.
- 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.

### **SUN PROTECTION**

- Bowls Queensland has a commitment towards sun protection from the harmful effects of the sun. Bowls Queensland encourages all Districts, Clubs, participants, officials and spectators of bowls to comply with the Bowls Queensland Sun Protection Policy.