



## WORK HEALTH SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

### Hot & Wet/Cold Weather Policy WHS3200

Issued by: WHS

Effective Date: 1 Oct 13

Rev: B

Page 1 of 3

#### 1. Purpose

This Hockey NSW policy is aimed at minimizing the risk of injury and/or illness occurring as a result of participating in the outdoor sport in extreme weather conditions. There is a separate Hot Weather Policy for indoor hockey as the effects of extreme weather conditions differ from those experienced whilst playing the outdoor game. The Championships Advisory Panel has set the temperature limits in line with those used by other indoor sports played in NSW. Players are asked to ensure they are adequately hydrated before, during and after games played in extreme weather conditions.

Hockey NSW strives to ensure that its members participate in the game in the safest environment possible and with minimum risk of harm. This includes ensuring the weather policy can apply to Hockey NSW events State-wide and provides clubs with confidence to adopt the practices as they see fit.

Weather conditions can vary greatly throughout Australia and Hockey NSW does not intend to second-guess the judgement of the controlling body of any given game. The decision whether to suspend or discontinue play remains the discretion of the controlling body and in Hockey NSW's case, the event manager.

Hockey NSW provides the following policy for use during all Hockey NSW events. The policy can be adopted at any level to assist the controlling body in their decision making.

#### 2. Application

These guidelines should apply at all Hockey NSW events where participants, volunteers or staff are, or are likely to be at risk from exposure to hot weather.

#### 3. Review

These guidelines will be reviewed on a regular basis and/or upon amendments to applicable legislation.

#### 4. Procedure

Please refer to the following website at 7pm on the day prior to the scheduled match day, to determine the maximum forecast temperature for the start time of the game:

<http://www.weather.com.au/nsw>

#### Hot Weather

Where the forecast temperature is 32-38°C, games will have 2 compulsory 1-minute timeouts in each half. The umpires will call the 1 minute compulsory timeouts when the game clock has 13 minutes remaining in the half and then again when there is 6 minutes remaining in the half. Teams will be unable to call for additional timeouts if the Hot Weather Policy has been invoked.

Authorised by:	Title: Hot & wet/cold Weather Policy	Page: 1
Version Date: August 2016	Next Review: August 2019	No of Pages: 3

NOT CONTROLLED WHEN PRINTED



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Rev: **B**

Page **2** of **3**

Below is an example of how to determine if the Hot Weather Policy will be invoked or if games will be cancelled after viewing the forecast website:

Time	Description		Wind	Rain	Humid	Temp
8am-12pm	Morning		Sunny. Warm.	9 km/h ENE	25%	33°C
12pm-6pm	Afternoon		Sunny. Very Hot. Dry.	14 km/ h NW	17%	43°C
6pm-10pm	Evening		High Level Clouds. Hot. Dry.	8 km/h SW	25%	33°C
10pm-8am	Overnight		Drizzle. Passing Clouds. Mild	6 km/h E	40%	24°C

- Where the forecast temperature is 38°C or above at the start time of the game, the game will be cancelled (ie afternoon games scheduled to start between 12pm and 6pm would be cancelled.)
- Those games with a starting time of between 8am-12pm (morning) would be played with compulsory timeouts, as the forecast temperature is above 32°C but less than 38°C.
- Those games with a starting time of between 6pm-10pm (evening) would be played with compulsory timeouts, as the forecast temperature is above 32°C but less than 38°C.

### Wet/Cold Weather

Before the start of the event, the event manager will monitor the expected conditions for the duration of the event.

If the ground is slippery from frost, snow, rain or mud or if the temperature drops below eight degrees or the sky becomes dark, it is at the discretion of the umpires to determine 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 part 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 begins to rain, play will continue until the event manager deems it unsafe to do so or the pitch become unplayable. In making the decision, the event manager will utilise the methods listed on page one to gain an understanding of the rain patterns in the immediate area. Should it be apparent that prolonged rain periods will continue, it is recommended play will be discontinued.

The time off the pitch may vary from venue to venue depending upon the playing surface,

Authorised by:	Title: Hot & wet/cold Weather Policy	Page: <b>2</b>
Version Date: August 2016	Next Review: August 2019	No of Pages: <b>3</b>

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### Hot & Wet/Cold Weather Policy WHS3200

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Effective Date: 1 Oct 13

Rev: **B**

Page **3** of **3**

the shelter available etc.

When severe winter weather is forecast, the event manager should initiate procedures and regularly monitor weather conditions and reports. The event manager may contact local and state/territory agencies for input on weather and road conditions. The event manager should review such things as the present weather condition 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 event manager will decide whether to cancel play/competition.

Where available, shelter should be offered for players and officials not involved in current play.

Authorised by:	Title: Hot & wet/cold Weather Policy	Page: <b>3</b>
Version Date: August 2016	Next Review: August 2019	No of Pages: <b>3</b>

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