



ADM-POL005

HOT WEATHER / EXTREME WEATHER POLICY

MARCH 2017

Purpose

The aim of this Policy is to ensure the safety of players, coaches, officials and spectators in connection with the playing of hockey when hot and extreme weather conditions are in force. While the impact and risk can vary depending on location and activity, in South Australia, extreme weather such as cold, lightning, extreme heat and catastrophic fire danger is a risk for our sport.

Scope

This Policy applies to hockey activities undertaken in South Australia in affiliation with or on facilities overseen by Hockey SA, whether at the State Hockey Centre or other affiliated satellite grounds, including but not limited to:

- Summer hockey
- Indoor hockey
- Premier League Pre-season competition/s
- Winter Metro Comp
- State Team & Club training
- Development academies
- Events run by Hockey SA such as State Championships.

Where Hockey SA staff or volunteers are providing services in a school environment, we will follow and come under the relevant school policy.

Where Hockey SA is hosting an event in conjunction with another party (e.g. Hockey Australia national championship, Australian Masters Games, etc), we will coordinate with their organisers as to what their Extreme Weather Policy is to make a joint decision regarding what to do in extreme weather events.

SASI training sessions at the State Hockey Centre shall follow the SASI hot weather policy.

Clubs and Regional Associations playing within South Australia are encouraged to adopt this policy rather than developing their own.

Key Principles

Following are the key principles underpinning this Policy.

- Nothing is more important than the safety of players and other people associated with the sport.
- Umpires, coaches, officials, spectators and volunteers are also susceptible to reactions to hot/extreme weather.
- We don't want to act too early such that games are cancelled unnecessarily, but equally we need to act where appropriate.
- Where possible, we will first seek to modify the game or training in preference to cancelling – for instance: moving training sessions inside, providing additional breaks or changing game format from halves to quarters to increase breaks, modifying sessions to lower intensity and changing training format to class-room based rather than on-pitch.
- Notifications of changes in fixtures as a result of extreme weather will be announced via the Hockey SA Facebook page.

Hot Weather

The Bureau of Meteorology website will be used to make the determination:

Ambient temperature	Premier League Pre-season competition/s	Summer hockey Indoor hockey Winter Metro Comp Events	State Team & Club training Development academies
Up to 30°C	Games proceed as planned	Games proceed as planned	Continue as normal
31 – 35 °C	Games to be played in equal periods of play not exceeding 17 minutes to provide additional breaks to participants*	Games to be played in equal periods not exceeding 17 minutes to provide additional breaks to participants*	Sessions to be adjusted to include more and longer breaks for participants‡
36 – 40 °C	Games adjusted**	Games cancelled†	Morning sessions planned to be completed by 10am may go ahead, but to be adjusted to include more and longer breaks for participants. Otherwise cancelled. ‡
40°C and above	Games cancelled	Games cancelled	Cancelled

*For fixtures to be played in this form, umpires are responsible for calling a timeout in around the middle of each half at a natural stop in the play:

- i.e. after 17 minutes in a 35 minute half
- i.e. after 12 minutes in a 25 minute half.

****For pre-season competition/s**, where the forecast temperature as published at 4pm two days prior to game day (i.e. 4pm Thursday for a Saturday game) is 36-40 °C, Hockey SA will notify clubs of the following:

1. Fixtures will be played in quarters.
2. Fixture times will be adjusted to ensure games are not played between 11.00am and 7.00pm.
3. Umpiring allocations will be adjusted so that no one is required to umpire consecutive games.

†Where the forecast temperature as published at 4pm two days prior to game day (i.e. 4pm Thursday for a Saturday game) is 36 °C or over, Hockey SA will notify clubs (or team contacts for Summer Hockey) of the intention to reschedule or abandon the fixture. In the event that the forecast from two days prior to game day increases from previously being below 36 °C to be 36 °C or higher, a decision will be made based on the forecast temperature at 4pm on the day before the game whether or not to cancel.

‡Sessions will be switched to low intensity or classroom-based. Coaches should be mindful of allowing adequate recovery and will reinforce the value of constant hydration.

Where sessions continue in hot weather, it is suggested that coaches/managers/organisers take other steps to assist players with the heat including consideration of the following:

- Additional drinks; ice water being made available to refill water bottles
- Ice/water bucket to dunk head in and/or sponge
- Cold towels
- Ice vests, if available.

Cold Weather

Games would not normally be varied for cold weather, unless one of the following is also a factor.

- Hail
- Thunder storm
- Extreme wind
- Heavy rain - flooding

The impact on games of adverse weather shall be dealt with in accordance with Clause 3.7.1 of the Metropolitan Competition Rules.

For on-pitch hockey activities other than games, the manager of the facility (including ground staff on site) is responsible for making the decision regarding whether the activities are cancelled.

Hail

All hailstorms present some risk to players in an open playing field, and the size and intensity of the storm can change dramatically in a short period of time.

All play should be suspended during hailstorms so that players and officials can seek suitable shelter.

It is important to also be aware of any significant temperature drop, rainfall and increased wind that may be associations with the hail conditions.

Play should be restarted after the hail has stopped falling, with particular attention being given to the amount of ice on the playing surface (size and thickness of layer). In some cases, it may be unsafe to resume play immediately due to an ice covered surface. Deferral of the restart to allow melting (or manual clearing in parts) should be considered in extreme circumstances.

For on-pitch hockey activities other than games, the manager of the facility (including ground staff on site) is responsible for making the decision regarding whether the activities are cancelled.

Lightning

Lightning is the visible part of an electrical discharge. Thunder is the resulting sound from the rapid expansion of the air after this electrical discharge. Sound follows light at 0.34km/second. Check the forecast and watch the sky. Darkening skies, flashes or lightning, or increasing wind may indicate an approaching storm.

Lightning safety tips:

- Use the 30/30 Lightning Rule. If the time between the lightning flash and the thunder sound is less than 30 seconds then play should be suspended, and not resumed until 30 minutes after the last thunder. 30 seconds means that the lightning is approximately 10 kilometres away.
- Find safe shelter. Sturdy buildings are the safest place to be during lightning storms. Avoid sheds, picnic shelters, metal coaching boxes and goals. Staying in a car with windows closed also offers some protection.

Note thunder is not usually heard 24-32 kilometres away.

For on-pitch hockey activities other than games, the manager of the facility (including ground staff on site) is responsible for making the decision regarding whether the activities are cancelled.

References

Hockey Australia

<http://hockey.org.au/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=SdLoWndnJ0A%3d&portalid=2>

Office for Recreation and Sport:

http://ors.sa.gov.au/sport_and_recreation/managing_your_club_or_association/resources_to_help_you_run_your_association

Sports Management Australia:

<http://www.smasa.asn.au/Portals/3/Images/Resources/hot-weather-guidelines-web-download-doc-2007.pdf>

Review of policy

The Board of Hockey SA will review this policy annually or as often as it determines necessary and will make any changes it determines necessary or desirable.

Access to the policy

This policy will be available for viewing by any member of Hockey SA through its website or a copy will be provided upon request.