



Extreme Heat, Total Fire Ban and Thunder/Lightning Policy

Policy:

With cricket being a summer sport, it is inevitable at time matches within the competition will be scheduled to play during extreme weather and extreme heat conditions.

With the means of fielding sides, all captains, officials, team managers, coaches and umpires owe a duty of care to all players and officials and should take all reasonable steps to minimise foreseeable risks which may result in injury or ill-health when extreme weather is prevalent.

Under this policy, the South West Cricket Association executive has the power to consider a full or partial cancellation of cricket ahead of the scheduled start of play or at any stage during play.

Given the geographical nature of the competition, this policy must take into account the location of clubs and club venues when making its decision, with all decisions to be made upon the advice of the Bureau of Meteorology and its official Weatherzone app.

Following this policy, South West Cricket matches will be subjected to the table below for clarity of matches being abandoned or continuing as scheduled during extreme heat conditions.

The official weather station for all SWCA matches will be the **Mortlake weather station** for games located in Boorcan, Camperdown, Cobden, Ecklin, Mortlake, Pomborneit, Noorat and Terang and **Mount Gellibrand weather station** for Princetown, Simpson and Timboon when determining whether play is to be abandoned or suspended on days of extreme heat.

It shall be the responsibility of each member club to regularly monitor (half-hourly basis) the current temperatures via the smartphone weather app WeatherZone when this policy is in effect.

Under these circumstances, the following conditions will apply to games:

Action	Junior Games	Senior Games
Play commencement	Temperatures must be below 30.0 Degrees Celsius (am start) or 33.0 Degrees Celsius (pm start) at scheduled start time	Temperatures must be below 38.0 Degrees Celsius (both am and pm) at scheduled start time
Play suspension	33.0 Degrees Celsius and above	38.0 Degrees Celsius and above
Play resumption (if play is suspended)	Temperatures must drop below 33.0 Degrees Celsius	Temperatures must drop below 38.0 Degrees Celsius
Play abandonment	35.0 Degrees Celsius and above	40.0 Degrees Celsius and above

Further to the above template, the following actions will apply:

1. At 10am on the morning of play, if the Weatherzone App on its website is predicting a temperature at Mortlake or Mount Gellibrand weather stations of 40 degrees Celsius or higher at 11.30am or later on that day, senior cricket will be cancelled for that day;
2. At 11.30am or at any stage during play the temperature reaches 38 degrees Celsius or higher at the Mortlake or Mount Gellibrand weather stations as per Weatherzone App, play will not commence or, if it has commenced, will cease until the temperature drops below 38 degrees Celsius at the Mortlake/Mount Gellibrand weather stations as per the Weatherzone App;
3. All captains, players, umpires and South West Cricket executive members have a duty to notify their opponents, umpires and any other relevant person if the temperature reaches 38 degrees Celsius or higher at the Mortlake or Mount Gellibrand weather stations as per the Weatherzone App;
4. The South West Cricket Association executive or the umpires of a particular match may cease play in a match if conditions are deemed to be otherwise unsafe, whatever the temperature may be.

5. The same rules shall apply to all South West Cricket junior matches, except rule 1 above shall be a temperature of 35 degrees Celsius and rules 2 and 3 shall be a temperature of 33 degrees Celsius or higher.
6. Games that continue following heat suspensions are to do similar to the wet weather rules in place – e.g use calculation tables, Duckworth-Lewis method where appropriate.
7. Scheduled playing times for junior or senior matches may be changed by the association in instances where extreme heat conditions are present; umpires also have the power to determine to schedule a longer tea break and play additional make-up time after the scheduled time for stumps.
8. On extreme heat days, umpires shall allow additional drink breaks without concern as to the extra time taken beyond the scheduled playing time. Any participant may call for additional drinks at any time while batting, fielding or umpiring, although every effort should be taken to minimise delays when this occurs.
9. When the required number of overs is not bowled within the scheduled time, umpires should show appropriate leniency where delays have occurred reasonably due to extreme heat affecting either team.
10. The ruling where half of each division's games must be played shall remain in place where matches are abandoned due to extreme heat, but the executive reserves the right to review this process on a case-by-case basis.

Preparation

1. In the days leading up to matches where hot temperatures as forecast, all players and officials should adequately hydrate and continue to hydrate during play to assist in the prevention of heat-related illnesses.
2. Any player experiencing dizziness, headaches, nausea, confusion, or an increased heart rate should immediately cease participation and rest; ideally in shade with a fan.
3. Players with medical conditions such as asthma, diabetes or heart conditions may be more susceptible to heat related illness.
4. Players are reminded of the need for frequent applications of sunscreen and the preference for long sleeved shirts to reduce exposure to the sun. Hats are an essential item and the wide brimmed style is recommended, particularly on sunny days.
5. No person will be forced by South West Cricket to participate in any match and member clubs shall place no pressure on any participant if he/she considers withdrawing from any part of a match for health reasons.
6. Clubs should provide sufficient shaded areas where the batting team, spectators and scorers can shelter.

Total Fire Ban (senior cricket)

1. On days of Total Fire Ban, the executive is considerate of the need for players, officials, managers and umpires to be close to home, especially those living on farm land.
2. On days where Total Fire Bans are called and/or the Fire Danger Rating Indicator is CODE RED, the executive reserves the right to determine whether cricket can safely proceed.
3. On days of Total Fire Ban, the executive asks all clubs to do their best to ensure they can continue to field teams for scheduled matches.
4. If clubs are unable to field teams on days of Total Fire Ban, they shall forfeit their lowest-competing senior team first (i.e start at division three and work back depending on number of teams).
5. Maximum points will be awarded to the scheduled opposition club in the event of a forfeit on a day of Total Fire Ban but no fine for a forfeit will be applied in this instance.

Thunder and Lightning

All umpires, coaches, managers/captains and anyone else with delegated responsibility for players are instructed to exercise extreme caution during thunderstorms.

The 30/30 rule is to be applied for the suspension and resumption of play when a thunderstorm is active in the area.

1. Play shall be stop and be suspended for a period of 30 minutes if the flash-to-bang count is less than 30 seconds as this indicates lightning could be less than 10 kilometres away. If this occurs, the lightning is considered close enough to be a threat and players are to leave the field or training area immediately and seek shelter in a building or motor vehicles – not under trees.
2. A period of 30 minutes should elapse before play is resumed, that is, after seeing the last lightning flash, wait 30 minutes before leaving shelter.
3. If during this play suspension lightning is again observed, contrary to the 30/30 rule, the 30 minutes shall start again.