



## **POLICY TITLE: WEATHER POLICY**

<b>RELATED POLICIES:</b>	Nil
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICERS:</b>	Audit, Risk and Policy Committee
<b>AUTHORITY:</b>	The Bowls Australia Board
<b>APPLICABLE FORMS:</b>	Nil
<b>APPROVED:</b>	July, 2017
<b>NEXT REVIEW DATE:</b>	June 2019

## **1. PRINCIPLE**

- 1.1 Bowls Australia (BA) strives to ensure that its members participate in the game of bowls in the safest environment possible and with minimum risk of harm. The safety of players and officials will remain the paramount consideration. This includes ensuring the following BA Weather Policy applies to BA events, nationwide.
- 1.2 The decision to suspend or discontinue play as a result of weather conditions remains the discretion of the Controlling Body. In BA's case that is: the Competition Manager.
- 1.3 BA provides the following Weather Policy for use during all BA events.

## **2. WHERE BOWLS AUSTRALIA IS THE CONTROLLING BODY**

- 2.1 At all events where BA is the Controlling Body, the following methods may be used to assess and monitor the weather at the event's location:
  - Bureau of Meteorology website ([www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au));
  - Any other appropriate portable measuring device.

## **3. MONITORING AND MANAGING HOT WEATHER**

- 3.1. Before the start of the event, the Controlling Body will monitor the expected temperatures for the duration of the event.
- 3.2 Before the start of play each day, the temperature will be assessed and an announcement to all players will be made warning them of any expected extreme temperatures, if appropriate. Players will also be made aware that the BA Weather Policy may be invoked during the event.
- 3.3 When the Competition Manager deems the temperature (as indicated using one of the methods listed in point 2.1 above) has reached the temperature specified within the Conditions of Play, play will be suspended by the Controlling Body and all players will complete the end they are currently playing and move from the green to a cool, shady area. If the end is declared dead, the end will be replayed if and when the game is restarted.
- 3.4 When the Competition Manager determines the temperature has fallen below the recommended guidelines, play should resume.
- 3.5 Players, officials and spectators should at all times be encouraged to wear hats or other sun protection. It is recommended that a hat be part of any uniform and that sunscreen be worn as appropriate. Drinks should be available at every venue where play/competition takes place. Tap water should be available free of charge and in unlimited quantities.
- 3.6 Where available, shelter should be offered for players and officials not involved in current play.

#### **4. MONITORING AND MANAGING WET/COLD WEATHER**

- 4.1 Before the start of the event, the Competition Manager will monitor the expected conditions for the duration of the event as per 2.1.
- 4.2 If it begins to rain, play will continue until the Competition Manager deems it unsafe to do so or the greens become unplayable.
- 4.3 In making the decision, the Competition Manager will utilise the methods listed in 2.1 to gain an understanding of the rain patterns in the immediate area.
- 4.4 When the Controlling Body deems it safe to return to the green, play should resume as per Law 32.

#### **5. LIGHTNING**

- 5.1 Lightning can strike without other typical storm characteristics (i.e. thunder, rain and wind) being present.
- 5.2 When lightning is sighted by the Competition Manager, the Controlling Body will suspend play and all players will be required to leave the green immediately and move to a safe structure.
- 5.3 When the Controlling Body deems it safe to return to the green, play should resume as per Law 32.

#### **6. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR CLUBS**

- 6.1 Clubs should refer to their State or Territory Association Controlling Body's Policy to determine the correct approach to all play not involving a BA event.
- 6.2 The safety of players and officials should remain the paramount consideration.