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## ADVERSE WEATHER POLICY

<b>Version: 1</b>	<b>Reviewed on: 31/10/2022</b>
<b>Responsible Person: Charlene Smith</b>	<b>Approved by Board on: 31/10/2022</b>
<b>Position: President</b>	

### APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all Board, Sub Committees, Affiliated Members and their Members. All volunteers, spectators and other participants of Success Netball Association Activities.

### CHANGES TO THIS POLICY

This Policy may be cancelled, amended, or supplemented by the Association as and when it sees fit. Any variation will be emailed to Clubs and Entity Teams by the Association and uploaded to our website. The Association will review this policy on a regular basis to ensure that it remains effective in supporting the objectives and strategic direction of the Association, and to ensure ongoing best practice.

### INTENT OF POLICY

To provide guidance in the management of Success Netball Association (SNA) managed or operated competitions and events in extreme weather conditions, with regards to cancellation, postponement or rescheduling of the event when extreme weather poses a safety risk to participants.

It is recommended that all events proceed, where possible, unless the weather conditions are considered unsafe. This Policy outlines factors for the Success Netball Association to consider when determining the safety of continuing Success Netball Association competitions and events where there is a risk of severe weather.

### THE POLICY

This policy applies to all Success Netball Association competitions and events.

### HEAT POLICY

On days where the temperature is 'extremely hot' or forecast to be 'extremely hot' at midday, the Success Netball Association will consider cancelling, postponing or rescheduling any events or activities, and will notify Clubs and Entity Teams where applicable.

Extremely hot weather is considered 36C degrees or above. Sports Medicine Australia (SMA) states that the risk of "Heat Illness" at this temperature is extreme. Refer to Bureau of Meteorology's forecast or latest weather pages for temperature forecast and/or current forecast. The SMA indicates that a high risk of heat illness may be prevalent at temperatures of 31C degrees or above so consideration to adopting the intensity & duration of events should also be given in this scenario.

Further considerations that apply at Success Netball Association events and activities are:

- On days of high to extreme heat, coaches, players, umpires, and officials should be aware of the possible risks and carefully monitor all players and umpires. If participants show signs of distress

from heat, immediate action must be taken to alleviate the issue. If this occurs please contact the Match Day Official and/or SNA Board.

- Special attention should be given to junior players because they are more susceptible to heat injury.

### **WET WEATHER POLICY**

When severe wet weather is forecast, information received from local and state weather authorities, such as the BOM, should be used to determine whether to cancel, postpone or reschedule.

Consideration needs to be given to many factors including:

- Amount and intensity of rain
- Hail
- Severity of wind
- Water volume on courts
- Lack of grip on courts
- Player age and ability level on court
- Visibility is affected for players and umpires on the courts.

The Success Netball Association can cancel or postpone matches due to severe weather, including high winds, hail, dust storms or any other weather considered by the Success Netball Association to be unsafe.

### **LIGHTNING POLICY**

In the absence of weather information from Bureau of Meteorology then the 30/30 Safety Guideline should be used during Success Netball Association events when there is a threat of lightning. According to this guideline, when lightning is considered a possible or actual threat, the following procedures are applicable:

- a) The observation of approaching storm clouds, the first flash of lightning or clap of thunder, no matter how far away, should heighten lightning awareness. The level of risk depends on one's location (direction and distance) relative to the storm cell and the direction in which the storm system is travelling. It is important to remember that lightning may be obscured by clouds, so it must be assumed that when thunder is heard, lightning is in the vicinity.
- b) A simple method of determining the distance to the storm cell is to measure the time elapsed from when the lightning flash is observed and when the associated clap of thunder is heard. Assuming that the light from the flash reaches the observer instantaneously, and knowing that sound takes approximately three (3) seconds to travel one (1) kilometre, then the distance between the observer and the lightning is one kilometre for every three seconds elapsed between the flash and the thunderclap.
- c) An acceptable distance from lightning is greater than 10km. This means that as the time interval between observing the flash and hearing the thunder is 30 seconds or less, all those in exposed areas should be seeking or already be inside safe shelters.
- d) It is recommended that people wait a minimum of 30 minutes after the last sighting of lightning or sound of thunder before returning to activities after they have been cancelled or postponed due to lightning. This figure is based on the observation that the typical storm moves at about 40kmph. Thus, waiting 30 minutes allows the thunderstorm to be approximately 20km away, minimising the likelihood of a nearby lightning strike.

### **CYCLONE POLICY**

In the event of the DFES issuing a Cyclone Community Alert, refer to DFES alerts and warnings and consider cancelling any Success Netball Association events in the area affected.

Continued monitoring of DFES alerts and warnings may be required when an Success Netball Association activity is being held in an area affected by a Blue Alert. It is recommended that any activity or event in the area affected by a Blue Alert is cancelled.

If a Success Netball Association competition or event is in an area where the DFES has issued a Yellow or Red Alert for cyclones, this activity must be cancelled. This decision should be made with reference to DFES alerts and warnings and consideration of local environmental factors. This clause will override any other guidelines in this Policy.

### **FIRE DANGER POLICY**

In the event of there being a Fire Danger Rating of Extreme according to Emergency WA or DFES, refer to DFES alerts and warnings and consider cancelling any Success Netball Association events in the area affected.

Continued monitoring of DFES alerts and warnings may be required during Success Netball Association events being held in areas where the Fire Danger Rating is Extreme.

In the event of there being a Fire Danger Rating of Catastrophic according to Emergency WA or DFES, it is recommended that all Success Netball Association events in bushfire risk areas where the Catastrophic rating applies be cancelled. This decision should be made with reference to DFES alerts and warnings and consideration of local environmental factors. This clause will override any other guidelines in this Policy.

### **PROCEDURES**

When it has been determined through this policy that an Success Netball Association event must be cancelled, please refer to the Success Netball Association [Competition Handbook](#) for the related procedures and actions for rescheduled games or score results. Cancellation of games will be posted on Facebook and clubs/entity teams will be emailed.

### **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

Competition Handbook