



## EXTREME WEATHER QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

### RATIONALE

These guidelines are provided for member schools in order to meet the following objectives in relation to extreme weather conditions particularly in the case of hot weather, but also in other circumstances such as severe storms, electrical storms or extremely cold conditions.

1. To provide guidelines for members so that their duty of care responsibilities is acknowledged and addressed and to ensure that the Association has acted responsibly in these circumstances.
2. To establish structures and procedures to assist members in making decisions efficiently.
3. To establish consistency of practice.
4. To avoid unnecessary cancellation of student activities and maximise participation in school sport.

### HOT WEATHER CANCELLATION TEMPERATURES

Secondary (Years 7-12) – 38 degrees

Primary – 35 degrees

### TEMPERATURE SOURCE

SAAS uses the Bureau of Metrology as its sources for updated temperature information



or BOM Website <https://weather.bom.gov.au/onboarding>  
then enter the suburb

### HOT WEATHER TEMPERATURE MONITORING PROCEDURES (excluding indoor water-based sports)

#### For Weekday and Weekend Sport

Schools will assess the local conditions at specific venues in **real time** in order to action any necessary cancellations. Decisions on weekdays for afternoon fixtures should be made after 12.00 noon unless the threshold temperature has been reached prior to this time, and it is forecast to be exceeded for the remainder of the day.

**Fixtures will be cancelled or cease when the local temperature reaches 38C or above for Secondary (Years 7-12) or 35C and above for Primary, including outdoor Water Polo and Swimming.**

**Schools will make every effort to maximise playing time prior to the threshold temperatures being reached, by working collaboratively and where possible, commencing the fixture at an earlier time in the day.**

#### Mid-Week Sport

If at 8.00am on the day, the maximum daily temperature for the location of the sporting fixture is predicted to **reach 35 (Primary) / 38C (Secondary) degrees Celsius or above** on the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) website/app, that afternoon's games will be cancelled.

The cancellation will also include indoor/outdoor Water Polo and indoor Swimming competitions.

**First, XI Cricket and Drive Tennis may be cancelled on an assessment of local conditions when either one or both Director of Sport (or other senior members of staff of staff) decides that the match should be cancelled. Playing conditions can be varied in hot weather to allow for extra drink breaks and variations to playing time.**

*1<sup>st</sup> XI Cricket games are to be given priority with early modified starting times. It is encouraged that the programmed early morning games should be given every option to play to maximise participation where possible.*

## **ON THE DAY OF COMPETITION**

### **Outdoor Venues**

- It is the responsibility of both teams to monitor the temperature using the BOM app and suburb venue location to determine when the cut off temperature of 35C for Primary / 38C Secondary.

### **Indoor**

- It is the responsibility of the host school to monitor the indoor temperature. Once the cut of temperature of 35C Primary / 38C Secondary is reached then the sporting fixtures will be ended. The host school will be expected to communicate this with the teams, officials and spectators. Some venues will have a controlled indoor environment and are able to set the venue temperature. If this is not the case and a thermometer is not accessible inside the facility, then the temperature measurement defers to the BOM app.

### **Central Location**

- It is the responsibility of the team listed first in the fixture to monitor and inform the Teams, Officials and Spectators once the temperature has reached the cut-off point of 35 for Primary / 38 Secondary.

## **OTHER CANCELLATIONS DUE TO HOT WEATHER**

A school may elect to apply their own Hot Weather policy and cancel fixtures where the forecast temperatures are lower levels than those stated above where local conditions are more severe and poses an increased risk for student participation or for staff involved in preparation of facilities such as cricket pitches.

## **LIGHTNING / THUNDERSTORMS / STORM**

In the event of lightning, thunderstorms, heavy rain or hail - if the conditions are such as the safety of the playing surface or player welfare is deemed unsafe by either team coaches (or match officials) then play should be suspended and players and officials to move to a safe location under cover.

In the case of lightning the playing fields are to be cleared if storm is determined to be within 10km. 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. If the light from the flash reaches the observer instantaneously and knowing that sound takes approximately three seconds to travel one kilometre, the distance can be determined by using the following rule: Distance (in Km) = Time from observing the flash to hearing thunder (in three seconds). Therefore, if flash-to-bang' count of 30 seconds, it indicates that the lightning is 10km away (1km per three seconds) and the chances of being struck by lightning is high. This indicates a potential for significant risk and the coach, umpire or team official should suspend the game.

It is recommended that a period of 30 minutes should elapse after the last sight of lightning or the sound of thunder before resuming the game.

If all parties are happy with the conditions and playing surface play can resume, however some modifications to the duration of the game may need to be made.

## **SCHOOL SPORTS TRAINING**

Training cancellations to be determined by individual schools using their own Heat Policies

## **CANCELLATIONS DUE TO OTHER WEATHER CONDITIONS**

The SAAS Executive Officer in consultation with the Chair of the SAAS Board may issue a blanket cancellation where weather conditions across the metropolitan area are considered to be so extreme as to warrant such a cancellation.

It is recognised that extreme weather conditions (hail, lightning, rain etc) could impact upon proceeding with games. Fixtures may also be cancelled by either participating school if deemed necessary.

Updated 11/02/26