



HEALTH & SAFETY

Extreme Weather Policy

Policy Statement

Bocce Australia Extreme Weather Policy provides for the sport of bocce to ensure that its members participate in the sport of bocce in the safest environment possible. Although Bocce Federation tournaments are primarily played indoor, the sport is also played outdoors and as such is not immune to extreme weather conditions.

Weather conditions can vary greatly throughout Australia and the object of this policy document is to prevent injury, and possible death, from extreme weather conditions. Likewise this document is to assist State Federations, Affiliated clubs, Bocce Members, Officials, Coaches, Bocce volunteers and participants to recognise and manage potentially dangerous extreme weather situations, in particular heat.

Definition

1. Member: being an affiliated State, Regional Federation or Club, or a Bocce Member participating in an official Federation endorsed Bocce tournament, coaches, referees, tournament directors, volunteers &/or committee members.
2. HEAT - *When temperature exceeds 36 Degrees Celsius (36°C), all sessions will follow these guidelines and adhere to policy compliance ensuring appropriate rest, drink breaks and low impact/intensity activities are conducted.*
3. WET/COLD – *When the weather conditions result in frost, snow, rain, water, mud or if the temperature drops below 4 Degrees Celsius (4°C) all sessions will follow these guidelines and adhere to policy compliance ensuring the safety of all involved.*

GENERAL GUIDELINES

Breaches of this policy must be reported to Bocce Australia management within 14 days of any occurrence.

Inclement Weather

The Club, as the Controlling Body, may decide to cancel the game prior to its commencement, or during play, if they believe that the weather is not likely to be suitable for play to commence or continue.

A Club may have in place a policy under which all play is suspended if certain criteria are reached or met (e.g. a threshold temperate which if reached or while exceeded all play is then suspended).

Players may appeal to the Controlling Body / Umpire for play to be suspended or abandoned. In a team game, such appeal should be made by the Captain or Club delegate.

In all cases, the health and safety of players should be the prime consideration in determining whether play should be suspended and/or abandoned.

Each club should have in place evacuation and emergency policies and procedures and should conduct an evacuation drill at least once in each 12 month period.

Each club should provide a contact number that players and officials can ring if they are in doubt as to the state of play on any given day

Bocce Australia advises that where possible, clubs should usually continue play or competition where they are able to do so however, player and official's safety will remain the paramount consideration.

The controlling body should suspend play/competition for up to two hours if the adverse weather condition may improve. Where conditions have not improved in that time the controlling body should cancel the play/competition for that day and reschedule.

The controlling body may approve rescheduling play/competition to another day or weekend if the controlling body determines that conditions are unsafe for players, officials or spectators. Typical reasons for this include consistent heavy rain, snow, slippery conditions, extreme heat or cold and bad light.

If play completion is to be cancelled and rescheduled the controlling body will use their best endeavours to notify participants. The controlling body will determine the most appropriate method of communication and might consider community radio, newsletter, phone calls, SMS text, or emails.

Each club should have its own policy as to refunding any fees to those participants who are unable to play/compete at the rescheduled time when the play/competition is cancelled due to adverse weather.

HOT WAETHER

Players, officials and spectators should at all times be encouraged to wear appropriate light weight uniforms along with shorts or for women three-quarter pants with short sleeved top. If playing outdoors that a hat is part of the uniform.

Drinks should be available at every venue where play/competition takes place. Tap water should be available free of charge and in unlimited quantities. Other drinks may be served or sold as determined by each club.

When the temperature reaches 36 Degrees Celsius (36°C), play/competition should be interrupted so that players are hydrated and that drinks are made available. Any time limit imposed on the interruption will be added to the game time limit.

When play is in the open, shelter should be offered for the players and officials not involved in the current play.

The Tournament Director at the venue along with the Game Day referee will determine suspension or cancellation of play/competition, where the temperature reaches above 38 Degrees Celsius (38°C). The immediate safety of all players and officials is taken into consideration if agreeing to continue play; however it is recommended that play/competition be discontinued.

It will be at the discretion of the controlling body to determine whether to discontinue play. In making the decision, the controlling body will take into account all relevant factors including the age and health of players and officials, the weather conditions and climate for that part of the country, the level of humidity, the evacuation/emergency plans for the club/venue and the amount of shade or shelter available at the venue.

WET/COLD WEATHER

In parts of Australia susceptible to cold and wet weather, it is recommended that clubs have warm cloths and a waterproof jacket as part of the uniform.

When severe winter weather is forecast, the controlling body should initiate procedures and monitor weather reports. The controlling body may contact local and State agencies for input on weather and road conditions. The controlling body should review such things at the present weather conditions and the traffic conditions with the immediate area as well as outlying roads upon which players and officials are arriving. Based on this information the controlling body will decide whether to cancel play/competition.

When playing outdoors, where available shelter should be offered for players and officials not involved in the current play.

If the ground is slippery from frost, snow, rain, water, mud or if the temperature drops below 4 Degrees Celsius (4°C) it is at the discretion of the controlling body to determine

whether to discontinue play. In making the decision, account should be taken of all relevant factors including the age and health of players and officials, the weather conditions and climate for that part of the country, the wind chill factor, the evacuation and emergency plans for the club and venue and the amount of shelter available at the venue. In addition consider the FIB ruling for wet weather in that play conditions until the 'jack' floats.

If it is raining heavily, play completion should be discontinued for a period of up to 2 hours. If it continues to rain heavily during that time it is recommended that play competition be discontinued. The time may vary from venue to venue depending upon the playing surface, the shelter available etc... It is at the discretion of the controlling body to determine whether to discontinue play. In addition consider the FIB ruling for wet weather in that play conditions until the 'jack' floats.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICERS

- Bocce Australia
- State Federations & Regional Associations
- Affiliated Clubs

AUTHORITY

- Board of Bocce Australia

REVIEW DATE

- June 2015