



PRINCIPAL PARTNER



**POLICY**



## WEATHER POLICY

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| Created on: 07/09/2020                                | Approved by CEO on: 6/12/2021         |
| Version: 2  | Approved by Board on: N/A             |
| Policy Type: Operational                              | Scheduled review date: September 2022 |
| Responsible Person: General Manager Community Netball | Reviewed on: 26/10/2021               |

### 1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance in the management of Netball WA (NWA), West Coast Fever (WCF) or Shooting Stars (SS) managed or operated 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.

### 2. Responsibilities

The NWA CEO is accountable for ensuring the policy is communicated and adopted across the organisation.

The relevant Manager is responsible for ensuring the operational implementation of this Policy.

### 3. Process

This Policy will be reviewed annually to ensure that the criteria and procedures are effective in supporting the objectives and operational and strategic direction of the organisation.

### 4. Changes to This Policy

This Policy may be cancelled, amended or supplemented by the NWA CEO as and when they see fit. Any variation or amendment will be given in writing by the CEO of NWA. This Policy will be reviewed annually as per the Netball in WA Policy Development Guidelines.





## 5. Definitions

**Policy** means this document unless otherwise specified.

**Bureau of Meteorology**, or **BOM**, means the Australian Government's weather service, the most accurate and up to date source for weather conditions throughout Australia.

**Department of Fire & Emergency Services**, or **DFES**, means the services provided by the State Government to coordinate emergency services throughout the entirety Western Australia.

**Manager** means any NWA, WCF or SS manager, staff member or appointed workforce member that is managing the competition/event.

**NWA CEO** means NWA Chief Executive Officer

**NWA Event** means an event/s or activities including, but not limited to, competitions, education events, meetings, functions, seminars, or any other activity organised by NWA, WCF or SS.

**Sports Medicine Australia (SMA)** means the peak national member organisation that provides leadership in areas including but not limited to sport exercise and medicine, sports injury, and physical activity.

## 6. Scope

This policy applies to all NWA events, including staff, volunteers, individual players, product participants, non-playing members and other volunteers who are participating in events that are managed or operated by NWA.

These events include, but are not limited to, Gold Industry Group WA Netball League (GIG WANL), State Cup, Regional Championships, Fuel to Go & Play Association Championships, NAIDOC Netball Carnival, Multicultural Carnival and School Carnivals, corporate Netball Events, Clinics and Carnivals, Leadership Camps, Charity and other events.

## 7. Heat Policy

The NWA rules for its events in extreme heat conditions are as follows:

- On days where the temperature is extremely hot or forecast to be extremely hot at midday, NWA will consider cancelling, postponing, or rescheduling any events or activities, and will notify Associations, Clubs, or participants where applicable.





Extremely hot weather is considered 36C degrees or above. SMA states that the risk of “Heat Illness” at this temperature is extreme. Refer to BOM'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 modifying the intensity & duration of events should also be given in this scenario.

Further considerations that will apply at NWA events and activities:

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

## 8. 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 the event. 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

NWA can cancel, postpone, or reschedule matches due to severe weather, including high winds, hail, dust storms or any other weather considered by NWA to be unsafe.

## 9. Lightning Policy

In the absence of specific information of weather information from BOM then the 30/30 Safety Guideline should be used during NWA events when there is a threat of lightning. According to this guideline, when lightning is considered a possible or actual threat, then 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 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 stopped 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.

## 10. Cyclone Policy

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

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

If an NWA activity 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.

## 11. 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 NWA events in the area affected.

Continued monitoring of DFES alerts and warnings may be required during NWA 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 NWA 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.



## 12. Procedures

When it has been determined through this policy that an NWA event must be cancelled, please refer to the specific rules, manual or rulebook of the related event for procedures and actions.

It is recommended that event organisers have the [Safe Netball app](#) and go through the Game Day/ Training Checklist before the start of any event.

## 13. Related Documents

- NWA Competition or Event manual related to the specific competition/event
- [SMA's and the Cancer Council's UV Exposure and Heat Illness Guide](#)
- [SMA's Extreme Heat Policy](#)

## Authorisation

**Simone Hansen**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Netball WA

**Date:** 6/12/2021





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