



Policy		Weather		NWA-POL-23
Department	Community	Creation Date	September 2020	
Custodian	General Manager Community Netball	Reviewed	February 2026	
Review Period	2 years	Review Date	February 2028	

Policy Statement

This Policy provides guidance and clarity for Netball WA (NWA) staff, NWA event organisers and competition/event participants on weather conditions and the potential impact on the delivery of NWA competitions and events. The policy outlines the process and procedures for which NWA event organisers make decisions regarding inclement weather on the commencement of, and/or during competition/events, ensuring the safety of competition/event staff, volunteers and participants.

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 Carnivals, Multicultural Carnival and School Carnivals, corporate Netball Events, Clinics and Carnivals, Leadership Camps, Charity and other events.

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.

Implementation

Responsibilities

The **NWA Executive** 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.

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 and the risk of “Heat Illness” at this temperature is extreme. 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. Refer to the [SMA Extreme Heat Risk and Response Guidelines and Web Tool \(2025\)](#) for evidence-based heat stress mitigation strategies.
- Refer to the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) forecast or latest weather pages for temperature forecast and/or current forecast.

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.

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.

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:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

Cyclone Policy

In the event of the Department of Fire & Emergency Services (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.

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.

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.

Definitions

Bureau of Meteorology (BOM)	The Australian Government's weather service, the most accurate and up to date source for weather conditions throughout Australia.
Department of Fire & Emergency Services (DFES)	The services provided by the State Government to coordinate emergency services throughout the entirety Western Australia.
Manager	Any NWA, WCF or SS manager, staff member or appointed workforce member that is managing the competition/event.
NWA Event	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)	The peak national member organisation that provides leadership in areas including but not limited to sport exercise and medicine, sports injury, and physical activity.

Reference List

References
Sports Medicine Australia, Heat and Sport https://sma.org.au/resources/policies-and-guidelines/hot-weather/
Sports Medicine Australia, Extreme Heat Risk & Response Guidelines & Webtool (2025) https://sma.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Extreme-Heat-Policy-2025_FIN.pdf
Sports Medicine Australia, Sports Heat Tool https://sma-heat-policy.sydney.edu.au/