

BENDIGO TENNIS ASSOCIATION

EXTREME WEATHER POLICY

The Bendigo Tennis Association has adopted an Extreme Weather Policy that is based on Tennis Australia's "Extreme Weather Policy" National Policy (Version No: 2.0, Effective Date: 25 Nov 2019).

Purpose and Objective

The Bendigo Tennis Association (BTA) recognises the dangers of extreme weather and the need to ensure that there are appropriate policies and procedures in place to mitigate risks to players, officials, coaching staff and spectators at all of our tournaments and competitions should an extreme weather event occur. The objective of the Extreme Weather Policy (Policy) is to:

- protect the health, safety and well-being of persons who participate in tennis activities of BTA tournaments and competitions,
- ensure venues are safe places to play, spectate and officiate so far as is reasonably practicable, and,
- provide a defined process to any event, tournament and competition organisers on managing extreme weather conditions.

Scope

This policy applies to all events and competitions organised by the BTA and excludes any International Tennis Federation (ITF), Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) or Women's Tennis Association (WTA) tournaments, which have their own extreme weather policies.

Definitions

Competitions/leagues	Organised tennis competition/s which occur over a series of weeks on a regular basis.
Tournament	Australian Ranking Tournaments, any non-ranking tournaments, Junior Development Series (JDS) tournaments, team events, challenge matches or any other tennis tournaments.
Official	Referee, Assistant Referee, Court Supervisor, Chair Umpire, Tournament Director, Junior Coordinator or other Club/Association Official.
Shortened formats	Method to shorten tennis matches as defined in the regulations that govern the relevant tournament or competition. For example, the 'FAST4' format.

Policy Statement

In recognition of the risks associated with extreme weather, BTA Officials and Administrators responsible for organising and managing tournaments and competitions must at all times place the health, safety and welfare of players, officials, coaching staff and guests ahead of the tournament or competition, irrespective of the inconvenience, cost or other considerations.

Officials responsible for conducting and managing tournaments and competitions must:

- Appoint a nominated Tournament Referee or Tournament Director to monitor regularly weather forecasts in the lead up to, and during the period of use for the tournaments and competitions using the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) Website (www.bom.com.au), and
- Comply with the specific Extreme Weather Procedures prescribed in Sections 1 - 6 of this Policy.

1 Extreme Heat & Thermal Comfort

Risks Involving Extreme Heat

Vigorous movement, such as tennis, places some people at greater risk of heat illness, especially in hot weather and/or in high humidity. If untreated, heat illness can lead to the more serious and potentially life-threatening conditions, including heat stroke.

Measurement of Heat Stress

Ambient air temperature is an indicator of how comfortable it would feel when playing tennis, however the air temperature is only one factor in the assessment of thermal stress.

Determining the Thermal Comfort Level for the Location of the Specific Tournament/Competition

To ensure all tournaments and competitions conducted by the BTA are consistent, the 'Thermal Comfort Level' and ambient air temperature must be taken from the BOM website.

The data reading will be sourced from the **Bendigo** weather station and will be taken from the 'Temp' column (Temperature) ambient air temperature: <http://www.bom.gov.au/products/IDV65079.shtml>

1.1 Code Red Fire Danger Ratings

Each day, the Bureau of Meteorology provides a Fire Danger Rating for each fire district in Victoria. A Code Red day will be declared by the BOM no later than 1.00pm the day before, however a Code Red can be called a number of days in advance.

Bendigo and surrounding areas are located in the **Northern Country** Fire District. When the BOM declares a Code Red Fire Danger day in the Northern Country Fire District, all scheduled BTA competitions and events will be cancelled and communicated as broadly as possible to all participants.

The cancellation of events due to a Code Red Fire Danger day is irrespective of temperature readings from the BOM website. The BTA will endeavour to provide patrons with as much notice as possible in relation to cancellation of events due to Code Red Fire Danger days.

1.2 Extreme Heat Procedures for Tournament Play

The following procedures have been developed for Tournament Play and must be applied by the Tournament Referee or Tournament Director (whichever is applicable) as soon as they become aware that the Temperature reading exceeds the thresholds determined as per 1.2.1 to 1.2.4.

1.2.1 Players are competing in 16 and under Tournaments:

When the Temperature reading reaching or exceeds 34.0 °C, an environmental assessment shall be undertaken, and consideration should be given to reducing the match format at:

- a) the completion of the current set for matches in progress, or
- b) all sets for matches which are yet to commence.

When the Temperature reading reaches or exceeds 35.0 °C:

- a) matches in progress shall be suspended at the completion of the current game, and
- b) new matches must not commence until the Temperature is less than 35.0 °C.

1.2.2 Players are competing in over 16 Tournaments:

When the Temperature reading reaches or exceeds 34.0 °C, an environmental assessment shall be undertaken, and consideration should be given to reducing the match format at:

- a) the completion of the current set for matches in progress, or
- b) all sets for matches which are yet to commence.

When the Temperature reading reaches or exceeds 37.0 °C:

- a) matches in progress shall be suspended at the completion of the current game, and
- b) new matches must not commence until the Temperature is less than 37.0 °C.

1.2.3 Players are competing in Seniors Tournaments in the over 65 (Super-Seniors) categories:

When the Temperature reading reaches or exceeds 34.0 °C, an environmental assessment shall be undertaken, and consideration should be given to reducing the match format at:

- a) the completion of the current set for matches in progress, or
- b) all sets for matches which are yet to commence.

When the Temperature reading reaches or exceeds 35.0 °C:

- a) matches in progress shall be suspended at the completion of the current game, and
- b) new matches must not commence until the Temperature is less than 35.0 °C.

1.2.4 Players are competing in Wheelchair Tournaments:

When the Temperature reading reaches or exceeds 32.0 °C, an environmental assessment shall be undertaken, and consideration should be given to reducing the match format at:

- a) the completion of the current set for matches in progress, or
- b) all sets for matches which are yet to commence.

When the Temperature reading reaches or exceeds 36.0 °C:

- a) matches in progress shall be suspended at the completion of the current game, and
- b) new matches must not commence until the Temperature is less than 36.0 °C.

1.3 Extreme Heat Procedures for Competition Play

The BTA has developed the following procedures for all clubs and teams participating in competition play. It is the responsibility of all clubs and participating teams to be aware of the Policy and ensure their by-laws enable a consistent application of the following:

1.3.1 Junior Competition involving players under 16 years of age:

- a) If the forecasted Temperature is 35.0 °C or greater up to two hours before play is due to commence, play will be cancelled and communicated as broadly as possible to all participants.
- b) Where, during play the Temperature reaches or exceeds 35.0 °C, play must be suspended on completion of the current game.

- c) After suspension of play, if the Temperature remains 35.0 °C or greater for more than 30 consecutive minutes, play is to be cancelled by the relevant official, administrator, team captain or club representative.
- d) Play can also be cancelled by mutual agreement of both teams within the 30-minute period outlined in 1.3.1(c).

1.3.2 Open Competition:

- a) If the forecasted Temperature is 37.0 °C or greater within 24 hours and up to one (1) hour before play is due to commence, play will be cancelled and communicated as broadly as possible to all participants.
- b) Where, during play the Temperature reaches or exceeds 37.0 °C, play must be suspended on completion of the current game.
- c) After suspension of play, if the Temperature remains 37.0 °C or greater for more than 30 consecutive minutes, play is to be cancelled by the relevant official, administrator, team captain or club representative.
- d) Play can also be cancelled by mutual agreement of both teams within the 30-minute period outlined in 1.3.2(c).

2 Rain, Flood and Hail

Rainstorms, flooding and hail have the potential to create dangerous conditions for players, officials and spectators. The relevant Officials and Administrators must ensure the health, safety and well-being of players, officials, and spectators as the overriding priority.

Where rain, flood or hail create an unacceptable risk, the relevant official or administrators may suspend play until court surfaces and surrounds are fit for play or cancel the days' play if it is unlikely to be safe.

- a) If rainstorms, flood, or hail have affected the facilities prior to play commencing, or the weather forecast predicts inclement weather up to one (1) hour before play is due to commence, play may be cancelled by the relevant official or administrator and communicated as broadly as possible to all participants.
- b) If rainstorms, flood, or hail causes play not to commence within 60 minutes of the official starting time, and when such conditions indicate that the match cannot be completed, both team captains may mutually agree that play shall be abandoned, and the match declared a draw.
- c) Where rainstorms, flood, or hail create an unacceptable risk to player safety, the relevant official or administrator may immediately suspend play until court surfaces and surrounds are fit for play or cancel the days' play if it is unlikely to be safe.
- d) Where rainstorms, flood, or hail result in an interruption of play for a continuous period of 30 minutes or more (or 60 minutes in the case of finals matches), or by mutual agreement of team captains when such conditions indicate that the match cannot be completed, play shall be automatically abandoned, and the match declared a draw unless a decision has already been reached.

3 Thunderstorms and Lightning

The definition of a thunderstorm is where lightning can be seen and/or thunder can be heard. Any storm which produces thunder means lightning is always present, even if it is obscured by cloud (it is the lightning which produces the thunder).

The simplest and most effective way to assess this distance of lightning is the 30-second rule. If there is less than 30 seconds between the lightning and thunder, then the lightning is within 10 km of the listener. (30 seconds at the speed of sound is 10.2km).

When a lightning strike is within 10km of the event, officials and administrators who are responsible for the event must suspend play and ensure players, officials, coaching staff and guests are removed from the area to a safe place, such as a large, structurally sound building.

Play can resume once the threat of lightening has passed, which is measured by the lightning and thunder being greater than 30 seconds apart.

4 High Wind

High winds have the potential to create dangerous conditions for players, officials and spectators. The relevant Officials and Administrators must ensure the health, safety and well-being of players, officials and spectators as the overriding priority and where windy conditions create an unacceptable risk and have the authority under this policy to suspend or cancel play.

Examples of windy conditions which create an unacceptable risk and where play maybe suspended:

- Foreign objects being blown onto the court,
- Court furniture or court fixtures being disturbed,
- Fences or court equipment being damaged, or
- Player health being affected by the force of the wind.

5 Sand, Dust or Smoke (Airborne Contaminants)

Any situation in which the air quality is compromised presents a risk to players, officials and spectators, especially if they have a pre-existing medical condition.

Airborne contaminates can come in many forms, but the most common are sand, dust or smoke.

The relevant Officials and Administrators must ensure the health, safety and well-being of players, officials and spectators as the overriding priority and where the air quality conditions create an unacceptable risk, have the authority under this Policy to suspend play.

If smoke is present it is recommended that the source is determined to ensure that the smoke is not toxic, not likely to worsen or is not due to a fire in the vicinity. If the smoke presents any danger, through reduction in visibility or ability to breathe properly, then play must be suspended or cancelled and all patrons removed to a safe area.

Version Control

Version Number:	02
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