



South Australian United Church Netball Association Inc

Regulation Document

Extreme and Hot Weather Policy

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1. Purpose

This policy establishes the requirements and decision-making processes for managing extreme and hot weather conditions affecting SAUCNA netball matches. Its purpose is to protect the safety of players, umpires, officials and spectators while supporting matches to proceed where conditions permit.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all SAUCNA competitions, matches, clubs, teams, players, umpires, officials, Duty Managers and Court Supervisors.

3. Policy Statement

SAUCNA recognises that netball is traditionally an outdoor winter sport and aims to play all scheduled matches. Matches may be cancelled, interrupted, abandoned or conducted under adjusted playing conditions where prevailing or forecast weather creates an unacceptable safety risk.

Decisions under this policy must be based on player and umpire safety rather than comfort. The nominated Duty Manager or Court Supervisor will monitor weather reports, radar information, lightning detection applications and Bureau of Meteorology warnings. Court Supervisors at suburban courts during the Winter Season may contact the Association Duty Manager for advice.

SAUCNA acknowledges that very young players may be more susceptible to distress in intense weather conditions.

4. Responsibilities

- Players and officials must wear suitable clothing and footwear and have access to appropriate protective clothing, sunscreen, drinking water and dry clothing where required.
- Clubs and teams must monitor SAUCNA announcements and ensure their participants understand this policy.
- The nominated Duty Manager or Court Supervisor is responsible for decisions to cancel, interrupt, abandon or adjust matches and for communicating those decisions.
- Umpires may hold time on individual courts where weather conditions make this necessary.

5. Cancellation Criteria

- Forecasts of extreme heat, catastrophic fire danger, or prolonged extreme violent weather.



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6. Interruption Criteria

- Short periods of intense rain, hail or strong winds
- Short periods of localised thunderstorm or lightning activity (lightning and thunder less than 30 seconds apart)
- Foreign objects being blown onto the court.
- Court furniture or court fixtures being disturbed or damaged.
- Player safety being affected by the force of the wind.

7. Abandonment Criteria

- Prolonged localised thunderstorm or lightning activity
- Prolonged intense hail or sleet activity
- Prolonged extremely heavy rain or high wind speeds
- Excessive water remaining on court playing surfaces.

8. Duty Manager and Court Supervisor Procedures

- Where it is identified that matches should be abandoned the Duty Manager/court supervisor will instruct all umpires to stop the match by holding time and arrange for the players to move to a safe area.
- Once the conditions have been reassessed the Duty Manager/court supervisor will advise players and officials that matches will either:
 - Recommence shortly (giving a suitable time frame for players to warm up again if the delay has been significant) and all players and officials must return to the court and take their positions. Play will recommence from where the ball was when time stopped and the remainder of the time for that quarter, and any subsequent quarters will be played, OR
 - Advise that conditions are no longer safe for the match to continue and that the match is abandoned. Scores and points are allocated based on the time of abandonment (see Match Abandoned conditions on page 9)

9. Adjustment of Playing Conditions

- If matches are not cancelled but the Duty Manager/Court Supervisor deems the weather to be unsuitable for normal playing conditions, matches will go ahead however the following alterations may be applied at the beginning of the match.
 - Quarters may be shortened however they shall be no shorter than 10 minutes duration and all quarters will be of the same duration for that match.
 - An additional drinks break may be taken during each quarter for no more than 1 minute at the halfway point of the quarter.
 - Breaks may be lengthened by 2 minutes each break to allow players adequate recovery time.
 - **No other alterations to playing conditions are permitted.**
- Match conditions may only be altered by the nominated Duty Manager/Court Supervisor, both teams and umpires are to be made aware of the alterations and the reasons for the changes.
- All alterations made, together with the reasoning behind the decision, must be advised to the Association Executive Administrator and Registrar in writing within 2 days of the completion of the match.



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10. Hot Weather Procedures

- The onus is on each club and each team to be aware of this procedure and to watch for such an announcement.
- If the Hot Weather Conditions are invoked and matches are cancelled, no points will be awarded for that round of matches.

10.1 Winter Competition

- Matches for the day will be cancelled if the predicted temperature during the day is deemed that it will be too hot to play by the relevant subcommittee Chairperson and Secretary.
- It will be announced on the SAUCNA Facebook page and the SAUCNA website no later than 9.00am on the day of the matches.

10.2 Summer Competition

- Matches for the night will be cancelled if the temperature is deemed that it will be too hot to play by the relevant subcommittee Chairperson and Secretary.
- It will be announced on the SAUCNA Facebook page and the SAUCNA website no later than 4.30pm on the day of the matches.

10.3 Major Round (Finals) – Winter Competition

- If Major Round matches are cancelled due to hot weather the following will apply:
 - For Semi Final matches: the following week there will be two matches played.
 - The team in first position will play the team in fourth position, and
 - The team in second position will play the team in third position.
 - The winner for each match will progress to the Grand Final.
 - For Preliminary Final matches: the higher ranked team will progress to the Grand Final.
 - For Grand Final matches: each participating team will be declared joint Premiers.

10.4 Major Round (Finals) – Summer Competitions

- If Major Round matches are cancelled due to hot weather the following will apply:
 - For Semi Final matches: the teams who finished first and second at the completion of the minor round will move directly to the Grand Final the following week.
 - For Grand Final matches: each participating team will be declared joint Premiers.



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11. Approval and Review

This policy will be reviewed by the SAUCNA by the next review date, or earlier where legislative or regulatory requirements change, a significant weather-related incident occurs, or operational experience indicates that amendment is required. Any amendment must be approved by the approval authority and communicated to affected clubs, teams and officials.

Policy title	SAUCNA Extreme and Hot Weather Policy
Policy owner	Board / Winter and Summer Chairperson
Approved by	Board
Approval date	28 September 2026
Effective date	September 2026
Review date	September 2028
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Status	Approved