



## ADVERSE WEATHER POLICY

### A) INTENT OF POLICY

The policy is to ensure that Fremantle Netball Association (Inc) [hereafter referred to as FNA] provides effective management guidelines in the event of the need to delay or cancel all or parts of the competition and/or altering the duration of game times and breaks on match day due to dangerous weather.

- FNA has a responsibility to provide a safe environment for players, coaches, umpires and spectators, to meet our legal duties of care and to reduce the potential of injury;
- although it is preferable that games are not cancelled the safety of members is paramount.
- This policy is not applicable to inclement weather- e.g normal Winter conditions

### B) POLICY BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

It is essential to ensure effective risk management is maintained at all times, at all levels.

- The safety and welfare of all players, coaches, umpires and spectators is the overriding factor at all times;
- The age and skill level of players should be considered;
- Children have a less developed perception of when they are cold or hot therefore coaches should pay particular attention to this factor when they are subjected to adverse wet, cold or hot conditions;
- Athlete preparation for wet or cold conditions
  - i. avoid standing exposed for long periods;
  - ii. wear appropriate clothing for expected conditions;
  - iii. wet clothing should be changed as soon as practicable;
  - iv. bring a change of clothes in a water proof bag for immediate change after the game.
- Athlete preparation for hot weather conditions
  - i. avoid standing exposed for long periods;
  - ii. wear appropriate clothing for expected conditions; including a soft brimmed hat, if possible
  - iii. apply sunscreen at frequent intervals
  - iv. consume sufficient water before, during and after activity to remain hydrated at all times

### C) HOW THE POLICY WORKS

At the discretion of the Officers of the Association (i.e. President, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Presidents) a timeslot or round may be cancelled due to dangerous weather in the immediate vicinity of Gibson Park Reserve (FNA). FNA shall co-opt other Executive member/s should any of the Officers not be available. This panel will make the decision on whether matches are cancelled.

### D) THE POLICY

Dangerous (Severe) Weather can include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Electrical storm: If the difference between a lightning strike and the associated thunder from that lightning strike is 30 seconds or less, all persons associated with the activity as players, officials, umpires or spectators shall immediately leave the grounds and seek shelter that is appropriate from a lightning strike.
- High winds: sustained winds of gale force (63 km/h) or wind gusts of 90km/h or more
- Hail storm
- Heavy rainfall which may cause flash flooding
- Extreme heat

## E) THE PROCESS

The process for consideration of delay or cancellation for all or any part of the competition shall be:

1. Check the weather warnings via the BOM web sites as detailed below; checks to be made half hourly on BOM Website throughout competition day.

Assessment to ascertain if dangerous weather conditions apply will be carried out utilizing the following tools:

- The Bureau of Meteorology weather warnings  
[http://www.bom.gov.au/catalogue/warnings/WarningsInformation\\_SW\\_SWW.shtml](http://www.bom.gov.au/catalogue/warnings/WarningsInformation_SW_SWW.shtml)
- The Bureau of Meteorology radar  
<http://www.bom.gov.au/products/IDR702.loop.shtml#skip>
- The Bureau of Meteorology Wind Doppler  
<http://www.bom.gov.au/products/IDR701.loop.shtml#skip>
- The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) ambient and WBGT reading:  
[www.bom.gov.au/info/thermal\\_stress/index.shtml](http://www.bom.gov.au/info/thermal_stress/index.shtml)

2. FNA to specify time periods for review (e.g. 2hours or 4 hours);

## F) COMMUNICATION MATCH DAY

- I. If the Bureau of Meteorology indicates there is likely to be severe weather within the Fremantle area and the Officers of the Association ascertain this may have the potential to impact on games, the following process for notification shall be detailed on the Website and FNA Facebook page

Posted at: insert date and time

FNA is currently monitoring weather conditions with the Bureau of Meteorology.

At this stage all games will go ahead as scheduled.

An update to this notification will be made at XXX (insert time)

Posted at: insert date and time

FNA is currently monitoring weather conditions with the Bureau of Meteorology.

Each game timeslot is being assessed individually. A final decision on individual games will be posted on this site 30 minutes prior to game start time.

Posted at: insert date and time

FNA has been monitoring weather conditions via the Bureau of Meteorology throughout the day. FNA has been advised by the Bureau that the weather conditions are now considered unsafe to be participating in sport outdoors. As a safety precaution FNA has made the decision to cancel the games to be played at (insert timeslot and date).

Posted at: insert date and time

FNA has been monitoring weather conditions via the Bureau of Meteorology throughout the day. FNA has been advised by the Bureau that the weather conditions are now considered unsafe to be participating in sport outdoors. As a safety precaution FNA has made the decision to cancel all games (insert date).

Posted at: insert date and time

FNA is currently monitoring weather conditions via the Bureau of Meteorology. At this stage games will go ahead as scheduled however the length of the quarters have been reduced to (insert) minutes with breaks of (insert) minutes to enable participants to seek shade and rehydrate as required.

2. If the Officers of the Association take the decision to cancel a timeslot or fixture an announcement by the President or Association Administrator will be made over the PA in the first instance. This will be followed by posts on the Association Facebook and Web Pages. An email will be sent to all clubs outlining any decisions made. This will be done by the Association Administrator. Phone messages to Club Presidents will be made in the case of a cancellation of a complete fixture.

#### **G. ACTIONS**

**Once a decision has been made to cancel or postpone a timeslot the following actions will be taken:**

- i. Members will cease playing (or training) outdoors and seek appropriate shelter from the severe weather conditions.
- ii. Club officials should ensure that teams and team management are aware of decisions impacting their games.

#### **H. MATCH PROCEDURES**

- i. if the match is cancelled by the Association before commencement, the game will be classified as a "washout" with all teams involved allocated a no game with no points;
- ii. if match is cancelled by the Association prior to half time, the teams are awarded 1 point each and a 10-10 result;
- iii. if the match is cancelled after half time by the Association, the current score of game stands.
- iv. No forfeits for a cancelled round/timeslot will be accepted if the round/timeslot is deemed a washout by the Association. However, any forfeits communicated to the Association prior to the competition day will stand with the forfeiting team being awarded a 20-nil loss.
- v. In the event of a Finals match having to be cancelled due to severe weather, The President will call a Special meeting of the Executive, to arrange for the match/es to be played as soon as possible.