



American Football South Australia (AFSA)

Weather Policy

Policy Owner: AFSA Board of Management

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1. Policy Overview and Purpose

This policy establishes the minimum standards and decision-making framework for managing weather-related risks during all AFSA sanctioned activities.

It is designed to protect the safety of participants, officials, and spectators, with safety taking priority over fixture completion at all times.

2. Underlying Principles

- Participant safety is the highest priority
 - Decisions must be made conservatively where risk exists
 - Environmental conditions must be actively monitored
 - Clear and timely communication is required
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3. Scope and Application

This policy applies to all AFSA sanctioned activities, including:

- Matches
- Training sessions
- Events and tournaments

This policy applies to all participants, officials, and clubs.

4. Core Policy Requirements

4.1 Decision-Making Authority

Final authority to delay, suspend, or cancel activities rests with:

- AFSA Match Day Delegate
- Field Officials (in consultation with the Delegate)

Medical personnel may provide advisory input where required.

4.2 Heat Management

Heat risk must consider:

- Ambient temperature

- Apparent temperature ("feels like")
- Humidity
- Surface conditions and sun exposure

Heat Response Guidelines:

- Below 28°C: Normal play
- 28°C – 32°C: Mandatory water breaks each quarter
- 32°C – 35°C: Additional breaks and monitoring
- 35°C – 38°C: Cooling breaks and possible reduced game time
- 38°C+: Delay, suspension, or cancellation if required

add in the bom

4.3 Lightning Safety

- Play must be suspended if lightning is detected within proximity
- The 30/30 rule applies:
 - Thunder within 30 seconds of lightning → suspend immediately
 - Play may resume 30 minutes after last thunder/lightning

Participants must:

- Leave the field immediately
- Seek appropriate shelter
- Avoid open areas and metal structures

lightning app/bom

4.4 Air Quality and Smoke

Activities may be modified or suspended due to:

- Bushfire smoke
- Hazardous air quality levels
- Dust or environmental hazards

Medical advice will take precedence in all decisions.

4.5 Extreme Weather Conditions

Includes:

- Heavy rain or flooding
- High winds
- Hailstorms
- Unsafe ground conditions

Activities must not proceed where:

- Playing surfaces are unsafe
 - Visibility is compromised
 - Equipment or structures are unstable
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5. Procedures / Processes

5.1 Communication of Decisions

- Teams and officials will be notified as early as possible
 - On-site decisions override pre-game expectations
 - AFSA will communicate via official channels where practical
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6. Breaches and Penalties

Failure to comply with weather-related directives may result in:

- Suspension of play or activity
 - Disciplinary action against individuals or clubs
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7. Enforcement and Responsibility

This policy is enforced by:

- AFSA Board of Management
- Match Day Delegate
- Field Officials

All decisions must prioritise safety and be applied consistently.

8. Related Policies

- Game Day Policy
 - Competition Rules Policy
 - Member Protection Policy
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9. Policy Review and Approval

This policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure alignment with safety standards, environmental conditions, and AFSA governance requirements.