



Torquay Bowls Club

22 - Weather Policy

Responsible Department - BOM
Date Approved - February 2025
Next Review 2 years

Introduction

The responsible decisions on club activities that must be taken with adverse weather conditions

Scope

The actions and those responsible to enforce the outcomes due to adverse weather

Definition

Actions for weather conditions that may cause significant health effects

Manager responsibility

All those persons who have taken a lead role in an event must make a decision according to this authorised policy.

Background:

The following policy is in place to support the Torquay Bowls Club to minimise the risks of injury, caused by adverse weather conditions.

Sporting clubs and organisations have a responsibility under health and safety legislation to provide and maintain a safe working environment for staff, volunteers, players and spectators. Minimising risks will help to fulfil this obligation and duty of care.

Inclement weather:

Inclement weather shall mean the existence of rain or abnormal climatic **conditions** (whether they be those of hail, snow, cold, high wind, severe dust storm, extreme high temperature or the like or any combination thereof) by virtue of which it is either not reasonable or not safe for bowls players, club members or employees to be exposed to.

In the event of adverse weather conditions, the responsibility to cease play rests with the Event / Competition Manager.

The Geelong Bowls Region (GBR) weather policy is contained in the Handbook for Bowlers Rules for Competition Numbers 3.11 to 3.22. (This could vary from time to time).

This Club adheres to the GBR rules and will apply them to all Club events, including Twilight and Social Bowls, in particular, the maximum temperature of 36 degrees.

The following is taken from the current GBR Rules for Competition, provides in detail the requirements for observing the weather policy.

Extract from the GBR Rules for Competition 2017-2018

Inclement Weather

3.11 In this rule “weather” means wet weather, lightning, and excessive heat, excessive Wind or dust or any other similar like weather conditions that affect play.

The Geelong Bowls Region Pennant committee, or its appointed sub-committees, shall have the authority to determine, up to two hours before the scheduled commencement of play, whether or not all play will be abandoned for the day.

3.12 Where play is abandoned, all clubs shall be advised of the decision as soon as possible and all matches (other than finals) scheduled for that day shall be deemed ties and points allotted accordingly.

3.13 Where a decision to abandon play is not made by the Pennant Committee, the Green’s Director or a person carrying out the duties of Green’s Director has sole authority to determine whether a Club’s green or greens are fit for play. Should the Green’s Director, or the nominated representative, decide, prior to the arrival of visiting sides, that the green or greens are closed for the day, prompt telephone advice should be communicated to opposition Club.

3.14 **Midweek Pennant** - If due to inclement weather a match has not commenced by 11.30 (before Xmas) and before 11.00am (after Xmas) it will be abandoned.

Saturday Pennant - if due to inclement weather a match has not commenced by 2.00pm it will be abandoned.

3.15 If due to inclement weather the start of a Pennant match has been delayed or interrupted in accordance with rule 3.13 and the match has not been completed before 4.00pm for a midweek match or 6.30pm for a Saturday match, it will then be abandoned, but if play is in progress at 4.00pm for a Midweek Match or 6.30pm for a Saturday match, it will be abandoned thereafter upon the interruption or completion of any end or ends in play at 4.00pm for a Midweek Match and 6.30pm for a Saturday Match.

3.16 Where play has commenced and subsequently due to consideration of the weather one side wishes to leave the green but the other does not, both sides can leave the vicinity of the green and the Umpire will resolve the dispute.

3.17 Where play has commenced and has been stopped owing to inclement weather or because the Green’s Director or the nominated representative declared the relevant green unfit for play, it shall not be resumed if the green remains closed for play, but if otherwise, the Managers shall decide whether to resume or not, other than under the heat policy. Failing an agreement, the decision shall rest with the Umpire.

3.18 If the Pennant Committee representatives have not determined that all play shall be abandoned for the day owing to inclement weather and a Sectional match is subsequently abandoned it will count as a tie providing that if the scores are such that one Side must win the match if all the remaining ends were played, that Side will be awarded the match with the scores as at the abandonment match.

3.18.1 If a result has not been achieved in 60% of matches in a Division all matches in that Division shall count as tie.

3.18.2 Despite anything contained in this Rule, Side Managers may, by mutual agreement abandon the game at any time due to the prevailing weather conditions if a resumption of play is unlikely.

Code Red Fire Danger Rating Days

3.19 If the day before a scheduled GBR game a Code Red Fire Danger Rating Day is forecast and announced by the Bureau of Meteorology for the Central Fire District for the day of play all GBR Pennant will be abandoned for that day.

Total Fire Ban Day

3.20 If a Total Fire Ban Day is declared on the day of Midweek or Saturday Pennant play shall be abandoned and points shared.

3.21 Heat Policy

3.21.1 For the purposes of determining the temperature – each Club shall provide and approved heat sensor to be located in a position to be approved by an independent weather services person - and such approval recorded with the GBR Secretary and Pennant Committee. Such placement and approval must be made prior to the beginning of each season and within the last two weeks prior to the beginning of such Pennant season.

3.21.2 No attempt can be made to effect heat sensor equipment to give an ‘abnormal’ reading. If any such attempt is made to affect a reading, then the offending club may be penalised including – but not limited to – loss of points and/or a financial penalty approved by the GBR Board.

3.21.3 The only authorised persons to be involved with the temperature reading sensor on the day are the respective Side Managers. Every means of reading the heat sensor by a minimum of two of the aforementioned persons must be made at all times a reading is to take place - that then in turn may affect the continuance or stoppage of play.

3.21.4 For the application of this rule the following temperatures shall be clearly marked as the 'threshold' temperatures. (Pre-match) for **MIDWEEK PENNANT** play will not commence if the temperature has reached 34 degrees Celsius at 10.30am before Xmas and 10.00am after Xmas. The commencement of the match will be suspended until the temperature falls below 34 degrees Celsius, and if play has not commenced by 11.30am (pre-Xmas) and 11.00am (post Xmas), then the match will be abandoned. If it is unlikely that the temperature will drop below 34 degrees Celsius the Side Managers may by mutual agreement abandon the game and share the points available. Any disputes that may arise are to be referred to the venue clubs officially appointed umpire of the day whose decision will be final. (During Game) for **MIDWEEK PENNANT** if play has commenced and the Temperature reaches 34 degrees Celsius or above at any time on the Pennant Day then play will be suspended until such time as the temperature falls back below 34 degrees Celsius. (All play will be abandoned at 4.00pm as per the provisions of rule 3.15
Every effort must be made to complete any ends in progress prior to leaving the green for the suspension of play.

IF PLAY IS SUSPENDED DUE TO HEAT AND THE GAME IS NOT RECOMMENCED WITHIN 1 HOUR OF THE CESSATION OF PLAY, THEN THAT GAME WILL BE ABANDONED IMMEDIATELY.

3.21.4.1 (Pre-match) for **SATURDAY PENNANT** play will not commence if the temperature has reached 36 degrees Celsius at 1.00pm. The commencement of the match will be suspended until the temperature falls below 36 degrees Celsius, and if play has not commenced by 2.00pm then the match will be abandoned.

If it is unlikely that the temperature will drop below 36 degrees Celsius the Side Managers may by mutual agreement abandon the game and share the points available. Any disputes that may arise are to be referred to the venue clubs officially appointed umpire of the day whose decision will be final.

(During Game) for **SATURDAY PENNANT**. if play has commenced and the Temperature reaches 36 degrees Celsius or above at any time on the Pennant Day then play will be suspended until such time as the temperature falls back below 36 degrees Celsius. (All play will be abandoned at 6.30pm as per the provisions of rule 3.15

Every effort must be made to complete any ends in progress prior to leaving the green for the suspension of play.

IF PLAY IS SUSPENDED DUE TO HEAT AND THE GAME IS NOT RECOMMENCED WITHIN 1 HOUR OF THE CESSATION OF PLAY, THEN THAT GAME WILL BE ABANDONED IMMEDIATELY

For other rules re heat refer to inclement weather Rules 3.11 to 3.18.2

3.21.5 Despite anything contained in this Rule Side Managers may, by mutual agreement abandon the game at any time due to the prevailing conditions if a resumption of play is unlikely.

3.21.6 For other Rules re inclement weather refer to Rules 3.11 -3.19.2.

Finals Play and Abandonment

3.22 Provisions contained herein and relating to abandoning play have no application to finals matches.

Safety and Conditions of Green (From TBC Rules Manual)

- i. All players must leave the green when lightning has been seen or threatens, or upon the direction of the Green Manager, or the responsible Member.
- ii. Use of the greens for organized competitions is subject to the prevailing Regulations for temperature and inclement weather.
- iii. The Green Manager may close the greens at any time should they believe, the green may be damaged with further use.

In summary, TBC will adhere to all GBR and BV rules re safety of participants.

This policy includes all Barefoot Bowlers and all other Bowlers, public or Torquay Bowls Club Members to comply with the below rules.

- I. When Greens Manager, Greens Keeper or Club Manager (or their representatives) directs bowling to cease, all bowlers must cease bowling and vacate the greens for conditions that have been deemed extreme and that is when: -
- II. The temperature on the club weather display reads 36 degrees or above.
- III. Stormy weather and or lightning is close and threatens safe playing.
- IV. Wet weather causing excess water on the playing surface that presents a possibility of damage to the playing surface.
- V. Excessive wind conditions where injuries or damage is possible.
- VI. Any other extreme weather conditions deemed to put players at risk or possible damage to infrastructure.