



Bowls South Africa - Inclement Weather Conditions Policy

In our vast Country we are subject to a variety of weather conditions all of which can have an effect on the ability to complete bowls tournaments. In order to provide a definitive determination as to what constitutes 'inclement weather' and how these are to be treated when they do occur at tournaments held under the control of Bowls South Africa this policy sets out the manner in which these are to be determined and treated.

The intent of this policy is to provide clear guidelines on this matter so that Tournament committees have a firm basis for decision making in the interests of good sportsmanship and ensuring the safety of participants are cared for.

The following are considered to be classified as inclement weather:

Heat & Humidity

Rain

Lightning and

Wind

1. Heat and Humidity

Everyone is at risk of heat-related illness during extreme hot weather some groups of people – such the elderly and people who have chronic health conditions – are more at risk than others. Whilst there does not appear a definitive definition of what is considered the maximum temperature at which participation should be stopped the diagram below gives some indication as to what health specialists consider to be unsafe conditions:

Metrication of Template:HeatTable

		temperature (°C)																
		27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43
Relative Humidity (%)	40	27	28	29	30	31	32	34	35	37	39	41	43	46	48	51	54	57
	45	27	28	29	30	32	33	35	37	39	41	43	46	49	51	54	57	
	50	27	28	30	31	33	34	36	38	41	43	46	49	52	55	58		
	55	28	29	30	32	34	36	38	40	43	46	48	52	55	59			
	60	28	29	31	33	35	37	40	42	45	48	51	55	59				
	65	28	30	32	34	36	39	41	44	48	51	55	59					
	70	29	31	33	35	38	40	43	47	50	54	58						
	75	29	31	34	36	39	42	46	49	53	58							
	80	30	32	35	38	41	44	48	52	57								
	85	30	33	36	39	43	47	51	55									
	90	31	34	37	41	45	49	54										
	95	31	35	38	42	47	51	57										
	100	32	36	40	44	49	54											



Clearly from the above there is a correlation between heat and humidity to give effect to determination in what is consider dangerous. It follows that a correlation between temperature and humidity needs to be established so that based on the combined factor of the two measurements a maximum temperature is calculated and used.

Play must be suspended when any combined temperature places the participants under extreme danger.

There is an excellent app available through the Google Play store called ‘Heat Index’ that calculates the heat index factoring in both temperature and humidity. A further app called ‘Galaxy Sensors’ gives an indication of both ambient temperature and relative humidity. These two apps used together will help make a scientific determination to establish heat conditions that are prevalent.

2. Rain

It’s a fact that some greens drain better than others and thus it’s quite conceivable that play may be possible at some venues whilst not the case at others.

At all times the Greenkeeper at each venue or his proxy shall be the sole determinant in deciding to suspend or stop play. Such decision may be done either before play commences or during the process of play. It must be noted that player discomfort is not a consideration for suspending play under these conditions.

Likewise the Greenkeeper or his proxy is the sole determinants in deciding when play may commence again. Apart from consideration to the well-being of the playing surface an indicator of excessive water on the green as demonstrated by a bowl having been delivered causing a plume of water to follow its progress is also an acceptable guideline.

3. Lightning

Whilst the occurrence of lightning is normally accompanied by both visual and sound recognition lightning has been recorded to strike at distance of 16 Kms from such observations. The rule of safety for safety is 10 Kms from where lightning is present.

Once again there is an app available called 'Lightning Alarm' that gives a very graphic presentation of where lightning may be and its proximity to the location of the place where the app is being used.

4. Wind

Excessive winds are normally more prevalent in our coastal areas but sporadic excessive winds have been known to affect other areas.

The occurrence of the following events prohibiting the fair participation is considered to be proof of excessive wind speeds:

- a. The jack cannot be placed without it moving from the designated position and
- b. Where equipment such as scoreboards etc. placed in the proximity of the greens presents a danger to contestants.

5. General

- a. At all events run under the auspices of Bowls South Africa the above measures will be the determinant when making a decision with regard to inclement weather. Players participating in a Bowls South Africa event shall be deemed to have accepted the provisions of this document as it relates to that event.
- b. The Event Co-ordinator at each venue will be the person responsible for communicating all decisions made with regard to inclement weather. In making such determination the Event coordinator must take into account all factors including the health of participants.
- c. Before such decisions are made the Organising committee or their designated official must have been advised of the need to suspend play.
- d. Where possible it is preferable to recommence play should conditions permit. The Event coordinator will be responsible, in conjunction with other authorities, for making such decision. In making such decision care must be taken that equity in terms of ends played is achieved across all teams competing at that venue.
- e. Play may be stopped on appeal of a player / team to the Event Coordinator. The Event Coordinator will make a decision in conjunction with the Organising committee or their designated proxy after taking into account the appropriate conditions as set out above. The decision of the Event Coordinator will be final and binding on all participants.
- f. Each venue hosting a Bowls South Africa event is expected to have such equipment as is necessary to measure temperature, humidity and potential lightning incidents. In addition the greenkeeper or his proxy for each venue must be present in the event that a decision needs to be about the conditions of the greens.
- g. Whilst sectional play at some venues may be more affected than others play at those less affected should continue as per normal and in terms of the conditions of play provided that all participants in those sections are afforded equal opportunity to complete their obligations.

Bowls South Africa is committed to providing a safe environment for participants in the sport of bowls. The above policy has been drawn up with this in mind however it is not always possible to cover all eventualities and Tournament officials are urged to take cognisance of the above and use these when reaching decisions as to the matter of inclement weather. The safety and health of participants under their control is of paramount importance.