



ADVERSE WEATHER POLICY

Updated March 2023  
Approved by Committee April 2023

**1. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Policy is to ensure that Fremantle Netball Association provides clear guidance on the management of scheduled matches and other Association activities in the event of extreme weather events where there may be a safety risk to participants.

The Association has a responsibility to provide a safe environment for players, coaches, umpires and spectators, and although it is preferable that games are not cancelled, the safety of participants is paramount.

**2. APPLICABILITY**

- a. This Policy applies to all Members and spectators of Association matches and activities.
- b. This Policy applies at all times during all Association events and activities, including, but not limited to:
  - i. the Winter Competition;
  - ii. the Spring Competition;
  - iii. any other competitions or carnivals being run by the Association;
  - iv. any school holiday programs or events being run by the Association.

**3. DEFINITIONS**

In this Policy, unless otherwise stated:

**Association** means Fremantle Netball Association;

**Bureau of Meteorology, or BOM,** means the Australian Government’s weather service, the most accurate and up to date source for weather conditions throughout Australia;

**Club** means any netball club or Entity Team affiliated and financial with the Association, and as otherwise defined in **Rule 11(8)(a)** of the Constitution;

**Committee** means the management Committee of the Association as determined by the Constitution;

**Constitution** means the constitution of Fremantle Netball Association Inc.;

**Department of Fire & Emergency Services, or DFES,** means the services provided by the State Government to coordinate emergency services throughout the entirety Western Australia;

**Division** means a Graded group of teams who play against each other in the Winter Competition;

**Entity Team** means a single team entering the Winter Competition at the Association that is not affiliated with a Club;

**Finals Match** means any Match played during a Finals Round;

**Finals Round** means a week of finals competition such as the Semi, Preliminary, and Grand Finals;



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**Fixtures** means the list of scheduled Matches between teams for a Division of the Winter Competition;

**Grounds** means the Frank Gibson Park netball courts and associated facilities;

**Match** means a game of netball played between two teams on a scheduled fixture date of the Winter Competition;

**Match Day** means the day on which official Matches of the Association are played;

**Member** means any affiliated members of the Association, including players, coaching and umpiring officials, volunteers, Clubs, and Club members;

**NetSetGo** means Netball Australia's junior entry netball program available to 5 to 10-year-old Players and endorsed by Netball WA;

**Policy** means this policy;

**Points** means the scoring system applied for winning or drawing Matches during the Winter Competition, with the total points gained during a season determining a team's relative position on the ladder;

**Round** means a fixtured series of Matches where teams in a Division are scheduled to play, usually on a single day;

**Rules of Netball** means the World Netball Rules of Netball (2020 Edition);

**Sports Medicine Australia, or SMA**, means the peak national member organisation that provides leadership in areas including but not limited to sport exercise and medicine, sports injury, and physical activity;

**Winter Competition** means the winter netball competition run by Fremantle Netball Association.

**4. THE POLICY**

- a. It is at the discretion of the Association to cancel, postpone, or reschedule Association activities due to weather events to ensure the safety of all participants.
- b. The Association may make different decisions in relation to NetSetGo Matches under this Policy than are made for Junior or Senior Division Matches.
- c. Heat policy
  - i. In reference with the Bureau of Meteorology, where the temperature on the grounds on a Match Day meets the Sports Medicine Australia [Hot Weather Guidelines](#) for:
    - 1) Moderate Risk of heat illness, the Association will consider modifying the length of matches and breaks for NetSetGO Division matches and activities during that period.
    - 2) High to Very High Risk of heat illness, the Association will consider modifying the length of matches and breaks for all Divisions during



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- that period, or cancelling or postponing Matches if deemed necessary.
- 3) Extreme Risk of heat illness, the Association will cancel or postpone all Matches during that period.
- ii. During hot weather events, if participants show signs of distress from heat, immediate action must be taken to alleviate the issue, such as removing them from the court, finding shade, adequately rehydrating, or using cooling devices.
  - iii. Particular attention should be paid to children and younger participants, who are more susceptible to heat injury.
- d. Wet weather policy
- i. Where severe wet weather is forecast or occurring, the Association will refer to the BOM to determine whether to cancel, postpone, or reschedule an event.
  - ii. In general, rain alone will not be a cause for cancellation, postponement or rescheduling of Matches in a Round of the Winter Competition or other similar competitions.
  - iii. When considering whether to cancel, postpone, or reschedule an event, the Association may give consideration to factors such as:
    - 1) The amount and intensity of rain;
    - 2) The presence of hail;
    - 3) The severity of wind;
    - 4) The volume of water on the courts;
    - 5) The grip available on the courts;
    - 6) Player age and ability level.
- e. Lightning policy
- i. The Association will monitor weather conditions in the lead up to, and during, Match days where lightning is possible or anticipated.
  - ii. In the event of visible lightning or audible thunder within 30km from Association activities, or if the distance of the storm may be 30km but cannot be accurately determined, the Association should halt all outdoor activities.
  - iii. In the absence of specific information from the [BOM weather radar](#), a lightning location system, or a specialised warning device, then the 30/30 Safety Guideline will be used to guide decisions on event postponement, cancellation, and resumption of impacted activities.
    - 1) In the event of an approaching storm, count the seconds from when the lightning flash is seen to when the thunder is heard ('flash to bang count'). If there is a thunder occurrence within 30 seconds from when the lightning is observed, activity is to cease immediately. Participants are to be advised to seek safe shelter to ensure safety.
    - 2) The 30/30 Safety Guideline is not an absolute rule. A storm may move very quickly, or not generate any lightning or thunder until it is very close or topographical or wind conditions may prevent sound from travelling to your position. It is important that Association observes weather conditions and is alert to the possibility of the above occurring.
    - 3) Outdoor activities should not resume until 30 minutes have passed since the last occurrence of thunder or lightning during the activity.
    - 4) If there is another thunder or lightning event after the initial occurrence, then the 30-minute timer should reset.
  - iv. When Matches have been halted due to lightning activity, participants should seek safe shelter indoors.



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- 1) Safe shelter includes:
    - Large/substantial enclosed buildings;
    - Fully enclosed metal vehicles with windows closed;
  - 2) All outdoor locations are unsafe in a thunderstorms, however, particularly unsafe locations and situations include:
    - High, open ground;
    - Close vicinity to the tallest structure in the area e.g., isolated or tall trees, light poles, communication towers;
    - Near outdoor metal structures e.g., tents, seating/benches, poles, gates, and fences;
    - Open walled structures e.g., rain shelters, pergolas;
    - Objects that increase an individual's height e.g., umbrellas.
- f. Fire danger policy
- i. Where an Association activity is taking place during a DFES or Emergency WA fire rating of Extreme or Catastrophic and there is a chance of this impacting the activity, the Association will refer to the relevant alerts and warnings and consider cancelling, postponing, or rescheduling the activity.

### 5. PROCEDURES

- a. The Association will monitor weather conditions and the relevant resources in the lead up to, and during, all Association activities.
- b. Participants and spectators will be required to follow the directions of Committee members and other Association officials as they are issued.
- c. Clubs must assist the Association to ensure that all impacted teams understand the decisions being made and how they will impact their Match.
- d. Where a Match is cancelled due to this Policy:
  - i. If the cancellation is before the commencement of the Match, then it will be considered a nil-all washout, with no points to be awarded to either team.
  - ii. If the cancellation is after the commencement of the Match but prior to half time, then it will be considered a draw, with teams being awarded 1 point and 10 goals each.
  - iii. If the cancellation is after half time in the Match, then the score and outcome of the game will stand.
  - iv. No forfeits for a cancelled Match will be accepted if the Match is deemed a washout by the Association, unless the forfeit was communicated to the Association prior to the Match Day, where it will stand as a forfeit.
  - v. In the event of a Finals Round Match having to be cancelled due to severe weather, the President will convene the Committee to arrange for any impacted Matches to be played or replayed as soon as possible, or whether another outcome is required.
- e. Where severe weather is expected or ongoing:
  - i. Communication will be made to the general public via social media, as per **Appendix A**.
  - ii. Communication relating to cancellation or postponement of Matches will be made over the PA at the Grounds.

### 6. MANAGING BREACHES OF THE POLICY

- a. In the case of a breach of this Policy, it will be managed by the Association.



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**7. RESPONSIBILITIES**

- a. The Association President, First Vice President, and Second Vice President are responsible for making decisions relating to the cancellation, postponement, or rescheduling of activities under this Policy.
  - i. Where one or more of these individuals are not present or available, they may co-opt additional Committee members to assist in making the decision.
- b. The Association is responsible for enacting any processes in relation to this Policy.
- c. The Association is responsible for disseminating this Policy to its member Clubs.
- d. Clubs are responsible for making their members aware of the Policy.

**8. CHANGES TO THE POLICY**

This Policy may be cancelled, amended, or supplemented by the Association as and when it sees fit. Any variation will be given to Members in writing by the Association.

The Association will review this policy on a regular basis to ensure that it remains effective in supporting the objectives and strategic direction of the Association, and to ensure ongoing best practice governance.

Signed

11/04/2023

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**Sondra Anderson**  
**PRESIDENT**  
**Fremantle Netball Association**

**Date**



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**Appendix A – Communication on Match Day**

If the Bureau of Meteorology indicates there is likely to be severe weather within the Fremantle area and the Association ascertains that this may have the potential to impact on games, the following process for notification shall be detailed on the Association Facebook page, which will also be visible on the website:

*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 *[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.