



Extreme Weather Policy

Melbourne University Futsal Club

Document Information:

Document Type:	Policy
----------------	--------

Category:	Competitions
-----------	--------------

Status:	Approved
---------	----------

Version:	1.0
----------	-----

Roles and Responsibilities:

Policy Approver:	President
------------------	-----------

Policy Steward:	Competitions Director
-----------------	-----------------------

Approval:

Approved On:	13/04/2026
--------------	------------

Effective Date:	13/04/2026
-----------------	------------

Review Date:	13/04/2028
--------------	------------

1. Objectives

- 1.1. The objectives of this policy are to:
 - 1.1.1. Ensure the health and well-being of all persons participating or involved in club activities
 - 1.1.2. Recognise the risks associated with Extreme Weather as it relates to club activities. This includes examples, but is not limited to:

2. Scope

- 2.1. This policy applies to:
 - 2.1.1. All members and association members of the Club, and to people authorised to undertake Club activities.

3. Authority

- 3.1. This policy is made under the Melbourne University Futsal Club Constitution and supports compliance with the:
 - 3.1.1. Football Victoria's [Extreme Weather Policy](#)
 - 3.1.2. The University of Melbourne's [Health and Safety Policy](#)
- 3.2. Sport Medicine Australia's [Extreme Heat Policy](#)
- 3.3. This policy is written with the knowledge the Club currently only operates Open Age teams, whilst noting that in accordance with the Club's Child Safe Policies ages 15+ could participate in Open Age Teams. As such guidance has been written with consideration for the relevant age groups.

4. Policy

- 4.1. Clubs have a duty of care to educate players in these guidelines for personal action and ensure a safe environment is upheld.

Preliminary Assessment

- 4.2. The relevant Coach, or Competition Coordinator, should assess the risk associated with the weather. This can include
 - 4.2.1. Checking the [Bureau of Meteorology](#) for the specific location of the activity
- 4.3. In cases where the assessment is that the risk is manageable, the Coach or Competition Coordinator can proceed, and the activity can proceed with acting with caution and implementing Mitigating Strategies where applicable.
- 4.4. In cases where the assessment is of considered too great to manage, the Coach or Competition Coordinator should look to cancel the activity.

Hot Weather Assessment

WBGT	Risk of Heat Illness	Recommended Management of Sport Activities at Training Matches
Less than 20	Low	Heat illness can occur in distance running
20-26	Moderate-High	- Increased caution - Increased drink breaks - Activation of Mitigating Strategies
26-29	High-Very High	- Increased caution for all competitions with underage or vulnerable participants - Activation of Mitigating Strategies - Consideration for abandonment or postponement
30+	Extreme	Increased caution for all participants

WBGT	Risk of Heat Illness	Recommended Management of Sport Activities at Training Matches
		- Increases drink breaks - Activation of Mitigating Strategies - Consideration for abandonment or postponement

- 4.5. The above WBGT table is provided as a guide only and maximum cancellation temperatures. Abandonment/Postponement of games, training or events at lower temperatures may be necessary on local conditions, humidity, player wellbeing and acclimatisation.
- 4.6. All participants have a responsibility to carefully consider their physical ability to participate at extreme weathers.

Wet and Cold Weather Assessment

Extreme Heavy Rain/Poor Visibility	Extreme Hail/Ice on Ground	Extreme Cold Weather
Competition should be suspended until the hazard clears. If rain continues heavily during that time, it is recommended that the competition be postponed until further notice. The match official or Competition Coordinator will determine whether play is safe to continue or is delayed.	Competition should be suspended immediately until the hazard clears. Refer to weather radar for official report and where available, shelter should be offered. The match official or Competition Coordinator will determine whether play is safe to continue or is delayed.	Where severe winter weather is forecast, weather reports and conditions within the immediate area should be monitored. If the ground is slippery from frost, snow, rain, mud, or if the temperature drops below 8 degrees, it is at the discretion of the Competition Coordinator. The match official or Competition Coordinator will determine whether play is safe to continue or is delayed.

Lightning and Thunderstorm Assessment

- 4.7. A Safe distance from Lightning is considered more than 10km. Appropriate shelter should be sought where lightning is within 10km.
- 4.8. Lightning can be obscured by clouds. If thunder is heard, you should assume lightning is in the vicinity.
- 4.9. In the absence of specific information from a weather radar or specialised lightning warning device, the **30/30 Safety Guideline** should be used
- 4.9.1. Light travels faster than sound. Assuming that the light flash reaches the observer instantaneously, and knowing that sound takes approximately 3 seconds to travel 1 kilometer, the distance can be determined using Distance (km) = Time from observing the flash to hearing thunder (in 3 seconds)
- 4.9.2. This means that as the time interval between observing the flash and hearing the thunder approaches 30 seconds, all those in exposed areas should be seeking or already inside safe shelters
- 4.9.3. It is recommended that people wait 30 minutes after the last sighting of lightning or sound of thunder
- 4.10. Prior to match days check weather forecasts for likely thunderstorms on the [BOM Website](#).

Air Quality Assessment

- 4.11. Air Quality Index (AQI) is used by public health authorities to quantify air quality including localised air pollution and potential health risks. The (AQI) can be assessed via [EPA](#) or [AQICN](#).

- 4.12. Suspending club activities is strongly recommended when AQI is over 200. Noting real-time measures may not be available, a 24-hour rolling average may be used for judgment.

AQI	Recommended Management of Sport Activities at Training Matches
Less than 150	Matches to go ahead as planned
150-200	Assess conditions, matches to proceed unless otherwise deemed unsafe
200+	Matches are immediately ceased until such time as the AQI returns to an acceptable range.

Duty of Care and Mitigating Strategies

- 4.13. All Club activities must be able to be paused or abandoned due to Extreme Weather. Player safety is essential and all measures should be taken to ensure no players or officials are put at risk of serious health concerns by participating in any club activities.
- 4.14. The desire to start competitions should not hinder any persons judgment where the safety of individuals is at risk
- 4.15. The relevant Coach, or Competition Coordinator, should implement, and Players should follow, **Hot Weather** management strategies, including:
- 4.15.1. Ensuring adequate fluid intake, min 500-750ml two hours prior to the session, and min 500-750ml for every 60 minutes of physical activity.
 - 4.15.2. Monitor hydration by implementing (or increasing) drink breaks.
 - 4.15.3. Players notify Coach or Competition Coordinator when affected by the weather
 - 4.15.4. Use water and electrolyte drinks
 - 4.15.5. Use pre-game, game and post-game cooling strategies
 - 4.15.6. Apply sun-protection factor 30+ sunscreen in high UV conditions.
 - 4.15.7. Use of cooling aids if available – ice vests, spray bottles, sponges, fans and shade.
 - 4.15.8. Coordinating activity times outside extreme conditions
- 4.16. Where applying a drink breaks the Club will:
- 4.16.1. Typically be 90 seconds.
 - 4.16.2. Be signalled by the Match Official to commence when the ball is out of play.
 - 4.16.3. Ensure players must remain on the field of play during drinks break.
- 4.17. The relevant Coach, or Competition Coordinator, should implement, and Players should follow, **Cold Weather** management strategies, including:
- 4.17.1. Taking the participant to a dry environment and warm the player with blankets or extra dry clothing free from further exposure to the elements
 - 4.17.2. Substitute wet clothing for dry where practical
 - 4.17.3. Maintain the intake of fluids
 - 4.17.4. Allow alterations to uniforms to provide more warmth for players
 - 4.17.5. Choose alternate training sessions not exposed to the weather conditions.
- 4.18. The relevant Coach, or Competition Coordinator, should implement, and Players should follow, **Lightning and Thunderstorm** weather management strategies, including:
- 4.18.1. If a lightning threat emerges, the nominated Club Official must contact all relevant officials and provide updates on a regular basis
 - 4.18.2. A decision to delay can be made whenever the hazard is realised
 - 4.18.3. All persons to leave the venue immediately and take shelter. Shelter should be inside a building or a metal framed car, not under near trees, small pagodas with low uneathed metallic roofs. Do not carry or touch metallic structures including wired fences. Do not sit on bicycles or motorcycles.
 - 4.18.4. Utilise the 30/30 rule and ensure a minimum of 30 minutes elapsed before returning to play.
- 4.19. The relevant Coach, or Competition Coordinator, should implement, and Players should follow, **Air Pollution** :
- 4.20. Cease activity where the pollution is deemed unsafe
- 4.21. Additional care or lower threshold for ceasing activities where participants have known health conditions

Determinations Prior to Club Competitions Match Time

- 4.22. The Club and Competition Coordinator reserve the right to postpone, cancel or reschedule all Club matches where there is a safety concern, including due to extreme weather concerns.
- 4.23. Where possible, the Club will advise its plans for fixtures prior to 6 hours prior to the first match on a competition Match Day (typically 11am).
- 4.24. If a Club announcement is not made by the deadline from 4.23, teams are expected to attend and prepare for the match as usual. Failure to do so may result in the team being considered to forfeit the fixture, listed as a 5-0 result against the offending team.
- 4.25. Teams and officials should proceed to the venue unless otherwise directed.

Abandonment during the Game

- 4.26. In rare circumstances, where conditions escalate extreme weather, a match official, or Competition Coordinator
- 4.27. Wherever reasonable to do so, a Team who thinks the conditions are unsafe, must notify the Match Official or Competition Coordinator, who in turn can declare the match abandoned. A team that abandons a match prior to this, may be considered to have forfeited the match and a 5-0 result against the offending team may be determined.
- 4.28. MUFC encourages safety as a first principle, and supports teams to take actions for their own safety, and will engage in discussions for reasonable solutions where a team has taken such action.
- 4.29. An incident report should be submitted to the Club Committee whenever a match commences and is subsequently abandoned or forfeited.

Rescheduling Matches

- 4.30. In the instance where a match has been postponed or abandoned, the match will be rescheduled at the Competition Coordinators discretion.
- 4.31. The Club may have limited access to booking additional facilities or capacity to find a reasonable rescheduling time in a manner that does not impact or compromise the remainder of the competition.
- 4.32. For Club Competitions where the result is tournament-critical (such as a group game result or final where the result may determine who qualifies for a next stage) the Club will attempt to reschedule the match. Some acceptable solutions include:
 - 4.32.1. A tournament-critical match may require two matches to be played on the same day (for example a final group game to then determine who subsequently plays a final game).
 - 4.32.2. Where limited facility or time access is available, in rare tournament-critical circumstances, the Competition Coordinator at their sole discretion, may determine that the replay is conducted as either an extra-time, golden goal, or straight to penalties decider.
- 4.33. Where a team is unavailable or unwilling to replay a match, the Competitions Coordinator may, at its sole discretion, deem the match a 5-0 result against the offending team.
- 4.34. Where both teams are unavailable to play a match, the Competitions Coordinator may
 - 4.34.1. Declared a 0-0 draw.
 - 4.34.2. Determine that the match is forfeited and both teams are awarded no points
- 4.35. Where a tournament-critical match is unable to be replayed, and no other solutions listed have been able to be implemented the Competitions Coordinator may, at its sole discretion, :
 - 4.35.1. Determine a winner aligned with the Competition Rules for deciding group placements (for example where listed, goals for, head to head, fair play etc).
 - 4.35.2. Determine a winner by a coin-flip
- 4.36. Where a match is not tournament-critical, the Competitions Coordinator at its sole discretion may determine that the match will not be replayed

Variation to Club Competition Matches due to Weather

- 4.37. If a Competition Coordinator makes determination to modify a Club Competition match has occurred due to Extreme Weather the Match Official may modify the game rules accordingly to allow the competition schedule to occur within Club booking times. For instance, if a pause due to rain or drinks break due to heat is implemented, the Match Official and Competition Coordinator

may reduce the match duration to ensure that the competition can finish on time. The Match Official should consult with both teams to consult on their determination for the relevant match.

- 4.38. Modifications to matches should be consistent with each half wherever possible and remain appropriate. For instance, if 1 drink break occurs during the first half, 1 drink break should be implemented in the second half.

Refunds

- 4.39. Some amendments to a League competition due to weather are reasonably anticipated. A single match abandonment will not be reasons for a league entry refund.
- 4.40. If a team has greater than one match not played due to weather, the team is able
- 4.41. If either greater than 33% or 4 matches per team are not played due to weather, the Club will actively contact teams to issue pro-rata refunds to all teams impacted.
- 4.42. Where a Single-Day tournament is abandoned prior to its commencement, the Club will refund all teams in full.
- 4.43. Where a Single-Day tournament is abandoned during to the Club will endeavour to refund all fees less any on-the-day expenses incurred (for example the Club will still pay Match Officials who officiated some games at the start of the day). The Club will not look to generate any additional or unnecessary revenue for a part-completed single-day tournament.
- 4.44. Where it is acceptable by both parties, the Club will encourage providing credit (for example a reduced future competition entry fee) for ease of logistics.

5. Procedural principles

- 5.1. **Safety first and duty of care** – Participant safety takes priority over competition outcomes. Where there is any reasonable concern that conditions may cause harm, the activity must be modified, paused, postponed or cancelled.
- 5.2. **Evidence-based and timely decision-making** – Decisions must be based on the best available information at the time (e.g., BOM forecasts/radar, WBGT, AQI, visibility and ground conditions) and reviewed as conditions change, including immediately prior to and during play.
- 5.3. **Clear authority, communication, and records** – The Coach/Competition Coordinator and Match Official must confirm who is the decision-maker for the session, communicate decisions promptly to teams and officials (including any variations to match conditions), and ensure cancellations/abandonments are recorded and any required incident reports are submitted.
- 5.4. **Reasonable adjustments before cancellation** – Where safe to do so, the Club should consider practical adjustments to reduce risk before cancelling (e.g., increased breaks, reduced match duration, additional substitutions, moving to a safer area, delaying start time, or modifying drills).
- 5.5. **Participant communication and self-management** – Participants must be reminded to monitor their own wellbeing, promptly report symptoms or hazards (e.g., heat illness, asthma impacts, lightning), and may withdraw from participation at any time without penalty where they feel unsafe.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

Role	Responsibility	Limitations
Club Committee	Approve and maintain this Policy; ensure the Club has a clear Competition Coordinator/Coach appointed for each activity; ensure incident reporting pathways exist and that records are retained.	Does not replace Competition Rules or emergency services direction;
Competition Coordinator	Lead pre-activity weather risk assessment (BOM, WBGT guidance, AQI, lightning, venue conditions); decide whether to proceed, modify, delay, postpone	Cannot guarantee real-time environmental measurements; must comply with venue management directions.

Role	Responsibility	Limitations
	or cancel Club competitions (or delegate decision authority as required); communicate decisions to teams and match officials; coordinate rescheduling and refunds in line with this Policy.	
Coach / Team Manager	For training and team activities, assess conditions and apply mitigating strategies (e.g., extra breaks, modified drills, indoor/safer areas, cooling/warming measures); monitor players for symptoms; reinforce participant responsibilities; escalate concerns to the Competition Coordinator or Match Official and recommend pausing/abandoning where unsafe.	Does not override the Match Official's authority during a match;
Match Official	Manage the match safely; implement appropriate modifications (e.g., drink breaks, shortened halves, temporary suspension); stop, suspend or abandon play where required; liaise with the Competition Coordinator and both teams; ensure any abandonment/incident is recorded in accordance with this Policy.	Decisions may be constrained by venue rules, time allocations and Competition Rules;
Participants	Arrive prepared for conditions and follow safety instructions; use protective strategies and follow mitigation strategies. Promptly report hazards and symptoms (e.g., heat illness, breathing difficulty, lightning, unsafe surface); withdraw from participation at any time if they feel unsafe; assist with moving to shelter when directed.	Remain responsible for their own health and decisions to participate, particularly if unwell or at higher risk; must not ignore directions from Match Officials/Club officials; .

7. Definitions

Abandonment means a decision made after an activity or match has commenced that it is ended early and will not be resumed that day due to unsafe conditions.

Air Quality Index (AQI) means an index used by public health authorities to communicate current or forecast air pollution levels and associated health risk.

Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) means the Australian Government agency that provides official weather forecasts, warnings and observations for Australia.

Competition Rules means the rules, regulations and conditions of play applicable to the relevant competition or event (including any rules issued by the venue, competition organiser, governing body, or the Club) and includes any specific extreme weather requirements.

Extreme Weather means any weather condition which may impact the Club in being able to deliver Futsal activities safely. This may include high temperatures, rain, hail, thunderstorms, poor air quality or other relevant weather. Risks associated with Extreme Weather include:

- Hot weather causing elevated body temperature from high-intensity sport, leading to: high heart rate, dizziness & collapsing, headache, loss of endurance & skill, nausea, pale skins
- Cold weather causing progressive signs of hypothermia, shivering, cold sensation, goose bumps, confusion and numbness, intense shivering, lack of co-ordination and sluggishness, violent shivering, slurred speech, stumbling, depression, muscle stiffness, vision impairment
- Wet weather such as rain or hail increasing the chances of slips and trips, dangerous tackles.
- Lightning presenting a risk of death or serious injury to outdoor spaces.
- Air Quality Pollution events causing issues for people with heart or lung conditions (including asthma).

Match Day means the day on which a scheduled Club competition match is to be played.

Mitigating Strategies means reasonable controls used to reduce risk from extreme weather, including (as applicable) modifying training, increasing breaks, providing access to water and shelter, implementing drink breaks, adjusting match duration, delaying start times, or relocating activity.

Open Age Competitions means competitions that are not restricted to junior age groups and are generally intended for participants aged 16 years and over, noting that participants aged 15+ may participate where permitted by the Club's Child Safe Policies and the relevant Competition Rules.

Postponement means a decision made before, or during, an activity that it will not continue that day and will be rescheduled (where possible) to a later date or time.

Safe Shelter means a substantial enclosed building or fully enclosed metal-roofed vehicle that offers protection from lightning and severe weather; it does not include open-sided shelters, small structures with exposed metal, or being under trees.

Suspension / Delay means a temporary stoppage or pause of a match or activity due to unsafe conditions, with the intention to resume when conditions are safe.

Tournament-Critical means a competition match where the result will have an impact on the progression or fixturing of future matches in the tournament. For example the result of a quarter-final match, will determine who qualifies for a semi-final.

Vulnerable Participant means a person who may be at higher risk of harm from extreme weather (e.g., due to age, pregnancy, disability, illness, asthma or other heart/lung conditions, medication use, or reduced heat acclimatisation).

Wet Bulb Globe Temperature means the reading that works as an indicator of the risk of exertional heat illness for a Futsal player and considers factors in providing a temperature reading during training or competition. It is a measure of the heat stress in direct sunlight, which takes into account: temperature, humidity, wind speed, sun angle and cloud cover (solar radiation).

8. Version History

Version	Approved By	Approval Date	Effective Date	Sections Modified
1.0	President	13/04/2026	13/04/2026	

Melbourne University Futsal Club

Bldg 103, Tin Alley, The University of Melbourne, VIC 3010 Australia

clubemail@email.com

clubwebsite.unimelb.edu.au

