



Mountain District Netball Association

Adverse Weather Policy – Saturday Competition

1. Purpose and Background

1.1. Mountain District Netball Association (MDNA) recognizes that adverse weather conditions present some level of risk that can harm the performance and/or the health of participants. Activities that occur in adverse weather conditions can place participants at risk of injury, illness and in extreme circumstances, even death.

1.2. The health and safety of our members is a paramount concern of MDNA. As such to reduce the risk of injury, manage potentially dangerous weather situations and meet legal obligations for duty of care MDNA, the Association aims to provide a safe environment for players, coaches, umpires, administrators, and spectators.

1.3. The purpose of this policy is to protect players, umpires, team officials, administrators, and spectators from the harmful affects of adverse weather.

1.4. The policy provides clear cancellation guidelines for event organisers and coordinators on the occasion of adverse weather conditions.

1.5. This policy applies to all participants at MDNA including but not limited to, players, umpires, team officials, volunteers, spectators and staff.

1.6. This policy only applies to MDNA competition and training days. Policies will be developed as required for other events hosted by MDNA (e.g. Tournaments).¹

1.7. This Policy document includes the following adverse weather procedures:

- UV Exposure
- Hot Weather
- Wet Weather
- Lightening
- Fire, Smoke and Haze

2. Policy Statement

2.1. MDNA reserve the right to cancel/postpone or alter an event in the interest of participant health and safety as such has developed clear cancellation guidelines for event organisers and coordinators. These guidelines aim to assist when managing events in adverse weather conditions and minimise the risk of injury and illness for all participants involved.

3. Procedure

3.1. Responsibility for the management of adverse weather lies with the Mountain District Netball Association Saturday Committee of Management. Any decision to cancel or postpone events will be taken by any three COM Members available and attending the event.

3.2. With the guidance of the procedures listed below the COM has the authority to ensure a decision is made in regards to the management of adverse weather conditions in order to ensure the safety of all participants. Decisions may be reviewed in light of changes of weather conditions.

August, 2022

Review: August, 2024

3.3. In the event of rain in the days prior to or on the day of the competition, the COM will complete the Match Day Checklist and consider guidelines by the following times:

- Day Season – 8am
- Night Season – 5pm

4. UV Exposure

- 4.1. Where possible, events will be scheduled during low UV times.
- 4.2. Players, umpires, team officials, administrators and spectators are encouraged to seek and use available shade.
- 4.3. Clubs are encouraged to provide sun-safe uniform options for players and umpires.
- 4.4. SPF 30 sunscreen is available at the Saturday Office for all payers, umpires, team officials, administrators and spectators.
- 4.5. Sun safe behaviour will be modelled by MDNA officials.

5. Hot Weather

- 5.1. Obtain an accurate temperature from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) before assessing the severity of the conditions.
- 5.2. Assess the severity of the conditions by utilising the table and information below. Ensure the recommended method of management is undertaken.
- 5.3. The following table provides recommendations on the management of activities in hot weather conditions.

Ambient Temperature C	Risk of Heat	Relative Humidity	Recommended Management
15-20			Heat Illness can occur. Caution overmotivation.
21-25	Low	Exceeds 70%	Increase vigilance. Caution overmotivation
26-30	Low- Moderate	Exceeds 60%	Moderate early pre-season training. Reduce intensity and duration of play/training. Incorporate more rest and
31-35	Moderate	Exceeds 50%	Limit intensity and take more rest and hydration breaks. Limit duration to less than 60 minutes
36 and above	Extreme	Exceeds 30%	Postpone games to cooler conditions or the cooler part of the day, shorten the game time OR

5.4. Factors to consider in conjunction with the above table include the following:

- Fitness levels, athletic abilities of participants (including individual differences such as medical conditions)
- Age of participants
- Surface type (certain courts may retain heat)

- Heat waves and UV exposure

6. Wet Weather, including lightning and thunder.

6.1. MDNA will use the following procedures to consider whether to cancel fixtures:

- Review the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) website.
- Assess the severity of the conditions by utilising the information below. Ensure the recommended method of management is undertaken.

6.2. Saturday Season

- If there is a 100% chance of dangerous heavy rain predicted for entire day, either the Friday preceding, or at the time the Match Day Checklist is completed, all fixtures will be cancelled.
- If heavy rain has occurred for most of Friday, or heavy rain is occurring at the time the Match Day Checklist is completed, and BOM predicts 90% chance of rain until 12pm, all morning rounds will be cancelled. A decision on afternoon games will be made round by round.
- MDNA will not cancel if light rain is predicted or abandon matches for intermittent rain.
- Games will be cancelled if there is excess water on the courts.
- See Weather section in the MDNA By-laws for further information regarding the management of game results due to cancellation or abandonment of matches.

6.4. Lightning

- In the event of a lightning storm or other severe weather (e.g. hail), games will be cancelled.

7. Fire, Smoke and Haze

7.1. Prior to the event ensure details about local weather conditions are sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM). In the event that weather conditions are conducive to the spread of dangerous bushfires BOM will issue Fire Weather Warnings within 24 hours of the potential onset of hazardous conditions. These warnings are also broadcast on radio and television.

7.2. If prior warning is received on the potential onset of hazardous conditions, including bushfire, smoke and haze, the COM will make a decision on whether the event is to be altered, cancelled or postponed to ensure safety of participants.

7.3. If prior warning is not received and hazardous conditions are approaching contact will be made with the Victorian Emergency Services and all instructions will be followed.

8. Cancelling games

8.1. Club contacts and members will be notified in all or any of the following ways using the most appropriate and inclusive action, if games are cancelled.

- Website, email and NetballConnect Communication, Social Media (FB and Instagram)