

SUNA Hot and Extreme Weather Policy Statement and Procedure

Overview

Netball is traditionally an outdoor sport and as such, it is the recommendation of SUNA that all netball activities should proceed unless conditions are severe.

Match duration may be lessened and/ or break times adjusted, due to prevailing conditions at the time, or to have excess water drain from playing surfaces.

Matches may be interrupted to allow intense weather conditions to pass before play is recommenced. Umpires retain the right to hold time on individual courts if they feel weather conditions make this necessary.

The decision to cancel, interrupt or abandon matches will be made by SUNA and will be based on reasons of player and officials' safety, and not on the comfort of players, officials, and spectators. Weather reports, radar information and weather warnings supplied by the Bureau of Meteorology as well as conditions at the SUNA complex will be monitored. SUNA will then determine whether matches should proceed or be cancelled.

This policy is to protect the safety and well-being of players, officials and spectators that participate in SUNA's competitions.

Each Club or other Association that trains or hosts matches at SUNA will be required to appoint a Supervisor whose actions will be directed by this policy.

Situations where cancellation of matches may apply:

- **Forecasts of extreme heat,**
- **Catastrophic fire danger,**
- **Or prolonged extreme violent weather.**

Situations where interruption to matches may apply:

- **Short periods of intense rain, hail or strong winds,**
- **Short periods of localised thunderstorm or lightning activity,**
- **Short periods of intense heat,**
- **Foreign objects being blown onto the court,**
- **Court fixtures being disturbed or damaged,**
- **Player safety being affected by the force of the wind,**
- **Or prolonged extreme violent weather.**

Situations where abandonment of matches may apply:

- **Prolonged localised thunderstorm or lightning activity,**
- **Prolonged intense hail or sleet activity,**
- **Prolonged extremely heavy rain, or high wind speeds,**
- **Excessive water remaining on court playing surfaces.**



Procedures

Hot Weather

All matches will be cancelled if the actual temperature reading on the day of competition for each respective age group as reported at 4.00pm at SUNA is and/ or SUNA considers that it will be too hot to play.:

- 34.0 °C + for 9 & Under and 11 & Under Competitions
- 36.0 °C + for 13 & Under, Intermediates and Seniors Competitions

In the event SUNA determines that all matches be cancelled due to extreme weather forecasted;

- Club Presidents and Secretaries will be emailed no later than 4.30pm and
- It will then be announced via the SUNA Facebook page.

The onus is on each club and each team to be aware of this policy. If the Hot & Extreme Weather Policy is invoked and matches cancelled, no points will be awarded for that round of matches.

If Major Round matches are cancelled due to hot weather the following will apply:

For Semi Final matches:

- The following week there will be two matches played.
- The team in first position will play the team in fourth position, and
- The team in second position will play the team in third position.
- The winner for each match will progress to the Grand Finals.

For Preliminary Final matches:

- The higher ranked team will progress to the Grand Final.

For Grand Finals:

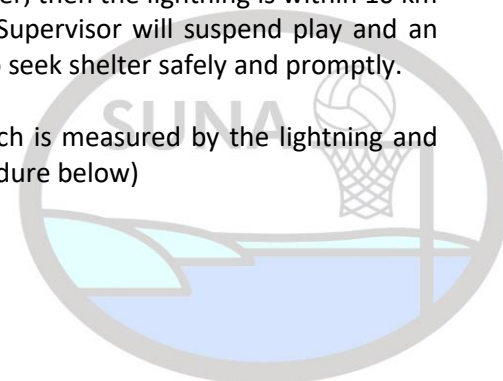
- Each participating team will be declared Joint Premiers.

Cancellation of matches due to Thunderstorms and Lightning:

The definition of a thunderstorm is where lightning can be seen and/or thunder can be heard. Any storm which produces thunder means lightning is always present.

If there is less than 30 seconds between the lightning and thunder, then the lightning is within 10 km of the listener. In the event of hail or lightning at SUNA, the Supervisor will suspend play and an announcement will be made over the PA system for everyone to seek shelter safely and promptly.

Play may resume once the threat of lightning has passed, which is measured by the lightning and thunder being greater than 30 seconds apart. (Refer Alert Procedure below)



Modification of playing times and game breaks

When matches are not cancelled during hot weather, SUNA Supervisors will monitor temperatures and then may offer longer break times and extra drinks breaks. This will be communicated prior to matches commencing to both match umpires and coaches and announced over the PA system at SUNA. Please note that SUNA has a water fountain at the end of court 5 to ensure easy access to drinking water.

Once play has started if clubs consider that the conditions are unsafe to play due to Hot & Extreme Weather, but matches have not officially been postponed or cancelled:

- The two coaches of the opposing teams for any match (other than during Finals) may declare a mutual forfeit (scores will stand (home scoresheet), and no forfeit fee shall be applied),
- Alternatively, the two coaches of the opposing teams may mutually agree to reschedule any match (or part thereof) within 7 days and in consultation with SUNA (and dependent upon court space),
- If during any match, the coach of only one team feels conditions are unsafe to play, this team may forfeit the match and normal forfeit procedures shall apply.

Interruption of matches due to intense conditions - Alert

Players and officials will be notified of an interruption to matches by notification via the PA system.

Umpires should instruct timers to hold time, and players should move to the side of the court if safe and stay warm until play re-commences.

SUNA Supervisor will assess the conditions and will give a 30 second warning to advise players and officials when matches are to re-commence.

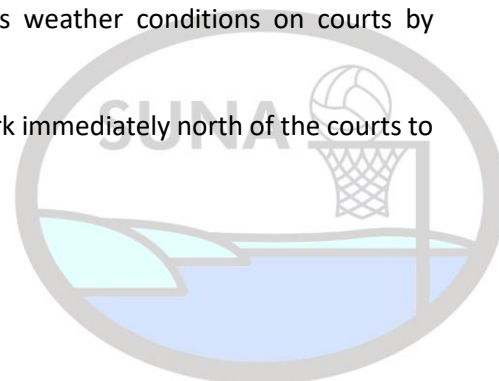
If after a reasonable amount of time, the Supervisor considers that the conditions will not improve, play in that timeslot may be abandoned. If the game was stopped anytime up until the end of the second quarter, there will be no score for that game and no points will be awarded. If the game was stopped anytime from the commencement of the third quarter, the score will be the score as recorded on the home scoresheet.

Decisions regarding the next timeslot will be made prior to the start of those matches unless the decision has been made to cancel all remaining matches. This will be announced over the PA system at SUNA and if required a post to the SUNA Facebook page.

Interruption of matches due to intense conditions - Evacuation.

Players, officials, and spectators will be notified of dangerous weather conditions on courts by notification via the PA system.

They will be asked to proceed in an orderly manner to the carpark immediately north of the courts to receive further instructions.



Rationale

SUNA recognises 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.

We recognise our role to manage potentially dangerous weather situations and meet our legal obligations for duty of care, and which is considered in this policy and consequent actions and decisions of SUNA.

Document Control

SUNA should be advised of any errors, omissions, ambiguities, and requests for change or suggestions for improvement in this document and in the critical incident process generally. Changes will need to be approved prior to being incorporated into the next version of this document. Reference Number: SUNA002

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