

*TNA acknowledge the traditional custodians of the
land on which we play*

2024

Tuggeranong Netball Association Extreme Weather Policy



TUGGERANONG
NETBALL
ASSOCIATION INC

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Revision History

Issue	Issue Date	Amendment detail
1.0	11 February 2020	Initial policy
2.0	April 2021	Minor amendments and formatting
2.1	14 February 2024	Align with TNA Policy Template



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Policy Overview and Purpose

This policy is to be applied in conjunction with the requirements of the Tuggeranong Netball Association (TNA) Rules and By-Laws.

TNA is committed to identifying all environmental weather factors that may impact activities held at the TNA courts. This document is provided as a set of guidelines for all key stakeholders unitising the facilities at TNA.

This policy covers extreme weather conditions including; wet weather, lightning, temperature; and smoke, fire and haze. This policy seeks to protect all players, officials, spectators and patrons at TNA. TNA reserves the right to cancel/postpone or alter an event in the interest of participant health and safety in accordance with this policy.

Wet Weather

Prior to the event, ensure a proactive approach and obtain details about local weather conditions from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM), www.bom.gov.au.

Grass court games may be cancelled if deemed too wet/slippery for safe play and participation. This includes cancellation due to closure of Sports Grounds by the ACT Government, which are the managing authority for the grass courts.

For all-weather courts, assess the severity of the conditions by utilising the table and information below. Ensure the recommended method of management is undertaken.

Continue	Cancel
Light drizzle	Continuous driving rain (including hail)
Intermittent rain	Activity surface is slippery due to excess water – when sweeping doesn't assist the surface.
Intermittent heavy rain with capacity to sweep	Frost and or ice on the activity surface.
Activity surface is wet and slippery with capacity to sweep away	Heavy fog with visibility less than 10 meters
Water pooling or activity on service with capacity to sweep away	Snow (light or heavy)



Lightning

Prior to the event, ensure a proactive approach and obtain details about local weather conditions from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM), www.bom.gov.au.

Lightning can strike more than 10km from the edge of a thunderstorm and it is generally agreed that 10kms is the minimum safe distance from a storm.

TNA supports the '30/30' rule which will be enacted for lightning safety and serves as a guide for event cancellation and subsequent resumption.

The '30/30' rule 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 staff/volunteers observe weather conditions and be alert to the possibility of the lightning occurring.

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 at risk and are to be advised to seek safe shelter to ensure safety.

Wait 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or lightning is seen before resuming activities. This will ensure the lightning storm is at least 20kms away from the venue.

Should play be in process when abandoned, patrons should disperse to vehicles immediately and/or seek shelter inside TNA structures.

Temperature

Obtain an accurate temperature (both ambient and Wet-Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT)) from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) at the Isabella Plains station www.bom.gov.au/info/thermal_stress/index.shtml, before assessing the severity of the conditions.

In accordance with Netball Australia Junior Netball Policy competition or training involving young people should be cancelled if the ambient temperature reaches 34 degrees Celsius or above.

The following guidelines are provided to assist with an assessment of extreme temperatures:

Ambient Temperature (°C)	Relative Humidity	Risk of Heat Illness	Recommended Management
15 - 20		Low	Caution over-motivation
21 - 25	Exceeds 70%	Low - Moderate	Increase vigilance. Caution over-motivation
26 - 30	Exceeds 60%	Moderate	Moderate early pre-season training. Reduce intensity and duration of play/training. Incorporate more rest and hydration breaks.
31 – 35 (Seniors and Intermediates) 31 - 33 (Juniors)	Exceeds 50%	High – Very High	Limit intensity and take more rest and hydration breaks. Limit duration to less than 60 minutes per session. Reduce length of quarters and increase break time for hydration.

Ambient Temperature (°C)	Relative Humidity	Risk of Heat Illness	Recommended Management
36 and above (Seniors and Intermediates)	Exceeds 30%	Extreme	Postpone games to cooler conditions or the cooler part of the day, shorten the game time OR cancel.
34 and above (Juniors)			

WBGT (Wet-Bulb Globe Temperature)	Risk of Heat Illness	Recommended Management
Less than 20	Low	Caution over-motivation
21 - 25	Moderate - High	Caution over-motivation. Incorporate more rest and hydration breaks
26 - 29	High – Very High	Limit intensity and take more rest and hydration breaks. Limit duration to less than 60 minutes per session – consider shortening the game time. Reduce length of quarters and increase break time for hydration.
30 and above	Extreme	Postpone games to cooler conditions or cooler part of the day, shorten the game time OR cancel.

In cold conditions, players and umpires can wear additional clothing. No unsafe items are to be worn including hooded jumpers. If the temperature is -5 or below games will be postponed to later times in the day or cancelled.



Smoke, Fire and/or Haze

Prior to the event, ensure a proactive approach and obtain details about local weather conditions from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) (www.bom.gov.au), ACT Health (www.health.act.gov.au) & NSW Rural Fire Services (www.rfs.nsw.gov.au).

In the event that weather conditions are conducive to the spread of dangerous bushfires, BOM and NSW Rural Fire Service will issue Fire Weather Warnings within 24 hours of the potential onset of hazardous conditions. These warnings will also be broadcast on radio and television.

If prior warning is received on the potential onset of hazardous conditions, including bushfire, smoke and/or haze, TNA may make a decision on whether the event is to be altered, cancelled or postponed to ensure the safety of participants. TNA will follow the advice of ACT Health in these conditions. Air Quality will be monitored closely.

If prior warning is not received and hazardous conditions are approaching, ensure contact with emergency services are made and follow all instructions given.

In accordance with ACT Health Air quality measures found [HERE](#), if readings at the Monash station reach POOR, limit intensity and take more rest and hydration breaks. Limit duration to less than 60 minutes per session. When readings are at VERY POOR or above games and training will be cancelled.

If needed, venue evacuation will be handled by the appropriate venue representative. In times when a TNA Executive members is not onsite, it will be the responsibility of the most senior person to direct evacuees to safe locations.



References

1. Netball NSW – Adverse Weather Conditions Policy 2015 - [HERE](#)
2. Netball Australia – Junior Netball Policy - [HERE](#)
3. Sports Medicine Australia – Hot Weather Guidelines - [HERE](#)