



# Adverse Playing Conditions Policy

## 1. Introduction and Authority

The Australian Croquet Association (ACA) acknowledges that it has a duty of care to all involved in ACA national tournaments or ACA- hosted international events.

Therefore, this policy is made and promulgated under s.29 of the ACA Constitution and applies at all ACA tournaments or ACA- hosted international events

## Responsibilities

The Tournament Manager is the person with the prime responsibility for the administration of this policy.

Venues, officials and players all share the responsibility of maintaining their health and safety.

### Venues Responsibilities

Venues are responsible for ensuring that temperature and humidity are frequently monitored, shade is available on warmer days, water is provided for player hydration and for the soaking of neck cloths on days of extreme heat.

### Officials Responsibilities

All officials are responsible for observing any change in the environmental conditions and any apparent change in the health of players. Any change should be advised to the Tournament Manager who, if there is an apparent change in the health of a player, is to check with the affected player.

### Players Responsibilities

Players have the prime responsibility for their own health. They should ensure that:

- they maintain a suitable and adequate level of nutrition and hydration before and during the event
- they have suitable and adequate clothing and equipment for all likely conditions, including for:
  - extreme cold (gloves, jumpers, beanie, etc),
  - high wind (wind proof shell clothing),
  - rain (waterproof clothing), and
  - high temperature (hat, suitable clothing, wettable neck scarf, sun screen, etc.)
- the Tournament Manager notified of any medical condition that may affect them or that may be exacerbated by extremes of temperature, high wind, etc. This may be done by completing the form at Appendix A, placing it in a sealed envelope endorsed with the players name and disposal instructions, which may be either recovery at the end of the event or shredding by the Tournament Manager.

Players should also be aware of any apparent adverse effects of environmental conditions on other players and bring them to the attention of officials.

## **Adverse Conditions**

If play is suspended for any of the adverse conditions listed below, the Tournament Manager is to reschedule the non-completed games for a time when the adverse conditions are not a factor, late evening, early morning or under lights (if available). If time does not permit, the event is to be cancelled and it is left to the Tournament Manager's discretion as to whether sufficient games have been played to declare a winner, or whether to refer the matter to the Tournament &/or Events Committees for a decision.

If adverse conditions will affect a player's health, they have the right, without prejudice, to have their games:

- Postponed to a time when the environmental conditions will not adversely affect them; or
- Cancelled.

## **Thunderstorms**

Play is to be suspended during thunderstorms or when lightning is observed 30 seconds or less before the thunder is heard and is not to be resumed until 30 minutes after the thunder and lightning are separated by more than 30 seconds.

## **Torrential Rain/Hail**

Whilst croquet play can continue during rainfall, play is to be suspended during torrential rain or when hail is falling, with the Tournament Manager or Event Organiser being the person responsible for deciding that the rainfall is 'torrential'.

## **Excessive Surface Water**

If surface water is excessive, including if excessive force is required when striking balls, play is to be suspended.

## **High Wind**

Play is to be suspended if extremely high winds present a danger to players from wind-borne debris, or if stationary balls are being moved an appreciable distance.

## **High Temperatures**

ACA recommends the use of Wet Bulb Globe Temperatures, which takes into account temperature, humidity, solar radiation and wind speed to measure likely heat discomfort. The Bureau of Meteorology publishes the WBGT for each of its weather stations, which can be accessed from its website.

Instruments to measure the WBGT are available from \$300 - \$1200. Alternatively, there are smartphone/tablet apps that calculate an approximate WBGT when temperature and humidity are input (ignoring wind speed and solar radiation) and a thermometer/hygrometer can be purchased for very little outlay (\$10 - \$40).

If WBGT reaches 30°C, play is to be halted and a meeting of players convened to ascertain if all are happy to continue. If not, suspend play until temperature decreases. If play continues, and the WBGT increases, play is to be abandoned.

### **Low Temperatures/High Windchill Factor**

While players are required to ensure that they have appropriate clothing for all conditions, in cases of extreme low temperatures or high windchill factor, the Tournament Manager may either suspend or abandon play, at their discretion.

### **Authorisation**

Adopted by the Board, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2021

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jim Clement', is written over a faint rectangular stamp.

Jim Clement  
Secretary to the Board

Attachment: Appendix A Players Medical Condition Form

## Players Medical Condition Form

Player's Name:

Medicare, DVA, etc. No:

Private Health Fund Membership: Yes/No

Fund Name:

Level of Cover: Gold/Silver/Bronze\*

Membership No:

Next of Kin:

Relationship:

Contact Phone:

Current Medical Conditions (that medical personnel would need to know in the event of an emergency):

Allergies:

Current Medications: