

# CANTERBURY AND WESTERN SUBURBS HEAT POLICY

## **Extreme Heat & Weather Policy**

It is recognised that it may be unsafe to continue play during certain conditions of extreme weather. This policy aims to assist in the making of objective and automatic decisions for the benefit of players, umpires, spectators and administrators.

This Policy shall immediately apply to all Youth Championships Metropolitan fixtures and for ongoing seasons.

### **1. TEMPERATURE THRESHOLD**

Where a temperature threshold is stated, the following measurements shall apply.

a) **Air Temperature** is a measure of how hot or cold the air is. It is the most commonly measured weather parameter;

b) **Feels Like Temperature:** The “Feels like” temperature is a measurement of how hot or cold it really feels like outside. The “Feels Like” temperature relies on environmental data including the ambient air temperature, relative humidity and wind speed to determine how weather conditions feel to bare skin. The “feels like” temperature may vary from the air temperature depending on the level of humidity and wind.

### **2. SMARTPHONE APP**

The **BOM (Bureau of Meteorology) Weather App** is to be the official App for sourcing temperature data. The App displays the actual air temperature as well as the “feels like” temperature at a particular location. Smartphone location settings must be enabled.

Alternative weather apps may be used if the BOM App’s data appears to be inaccurate or not up to date.

### **3. ADDITIONAL DRINKS INTERVALS AND EXTENDED INTERVALS**

Prior to the commencement of play, the umpires and captains shall conduct a heat safety briefing –

a) to determine increasing the number and duration of drinks intervals and allowing players and umpires to leave the field of play during drinks intervals; and

b) to determine whether to extend the duration of lunch and/or afternoon tea

intervals.

#### 4. **CESSATION, RESUMPTION AND ABANDONMENT OF PLAY**

a) **Cessation of Play:** In the event that either the Air temperature or the “Feels Like” temperature reaches or exceeds **40 degrees Celsius**; the umpires or captains shall or cease play.

b) **Resumption of Play:** Following a cessation of play under 4 (a) above, play shall only resume if the air temperature drops to, or below, 38 degrees Celsius within 1 hour after a cessation of play, otherwise, the day’s play shall be abandoned.

c) **Abandonment of Play:**

i. The day’s play shall be abandoned in the event that play does not resume within 1 hour after a cessation of play (refer 4b above); or

ii. Notwithstanding 4 (c) (i) above, the umpires, in consultation with the captains, may abandon the day’s play immediately following a cessation, if the BOM App’s hourly forecast does not show a fall in temperature to 38 degrees within 1 hour after the cessation. In other words, there may be no requirement to wait 1 hour before a decision is made to abandon the day’s play.

d) There shall be no discretion to allow a resumption of that day’s play once play has been abandoned due to extreme heat.

#### 5. **PLAYER HEALTH AND WELFARE**

Notwithstanding (4) above, the captains from both teams will have sole discretion to abandon play if they consider that, to continue play during prolonged or excessive heat, it would be dangerous to the health and welfare of any, or all, of the participants. To assist the umpires in exercising their discretion, they may –

a) take into account any apparent signs of heat stress being displayed by any of the participants.

b) refer to an air temperature thermometer, if properly installed in the shade at the match venue.

#### 6. **ADVANCE CANCELLATION OF AN ENTIRE DAY’S PLAY**

The C&WSCA Honorary Secretary has the power to cancel a day’s play in the event that, on the day prior to scheduled play, the forecast temperature is 40 degrees or more.

#### 7. **AMENDMENT TO PLAYING TIME**

By monitoring 7-day temperature forecasts and seeking to maximise opportunities for

play during times of extreme heat, the C&WSCA Secretary has the power to reschedule the start of play to 8.00am (juniors only) in order to maximise the opportunity for play during cooler time of day.

The C&WSCA secretary in conjunction with the Junior competition secretary will seek to provide Clubs with ample advance notice that an amendment to playing time may be imminent. All participants in every match are to strive to maximise opportunities to play.

## **8. LIGHTNING**

Play shall cease immediately in the event that a lightning flash is followed by thunder less than 40 seconds later. Play shall not resume until 30 minutes after the last lightning flash. Immediately following the suspension of play, persons may enter the field of play in order to lay pitch covers.

However, no person may remain on, or enter, the field of play in the event a lightning flash is followed by thunder less than 30 seconds later and shall remain off the field of play for the duration of the period that play is suspended under this playing condition. Any person who breaches this playing condition breaches the code of conduct and the umpires shall report such person/s to the Governing Body.

## **9. AIR QUALITY**

As NSW has previously experienced unprecedented weather and weather-related events during cricket season, the wellbeing of players, umpires and volunteers of all ages remains paramount. CNSW and umpires are to evaluate air quality on site and take action as necessary to delay, postpone or cancel matches where required.

More information on the Air Quality Index can be found at NSW Air Quality Index:

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/air/Pages/aqi.aspx>

Current Index recordings can be found at Current & Forecast Air Quality Readings:

<https://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/air-quality/current-air-quality>

Those with respiratory conditions should ensure they take appropriate precautions and ensure medication is available during times of poor air quality.