



## **Weather Policy**

### **Purpose**

The aim of this policy is to ensure the safety of players, coaches, officials and spectators in connection with the playing of hockey when hot and extreme weather conditions are in force.

### **Scope**

This policy covers the playing of all games across all grades during the regular season.

### **Key Principles**

- Nothing is more important than the safety of those involved in the game.
- We don't want to act too early such that games are cancelled unnecessarily, but equally we need to act where appropriate.
- Where possible we will first seek to modify the game in preference to cancelling, for example providing additional breaks, shortening the game.
- GHA to be notified by the affected clubs of changes in fixtures as a result of extreme weather.

### **Hot Weather**

Ambient Temperature	Procedure	Comments
Up to 30c	Games as planned	
31-35c	Option for games to be played in quarters. Captains and umpires determine if game to be played in quarters or in halves.	If quarters the umpires call a break at 18mins each half for a senior fixture. If quarters the umpires call a break after 13 minutes each half for juniors. <b>Each break including half time to be of 2mins duration.</b> Half field unchanged as they play thirds.
36-39c	Game played in quarters.	Umpires call a break at 18mins each half for a 35 min half game. Umpires call a break after 13 minutes each half for a 25min half game. <b>Each break including half time to be of 2mins duration.</b> Half field unchanged as they play thirds.
Above 40c	Games cancelled or rescheduled.	Captains agree on possibility of rescheduling or cancelling. Both clubs to agree.

Temperature to be monitored via a smart phone displaying local conditions



## ***Cold Weather***

Games would not normally be varied for cold weather, unless one of the following is also a factor.

- Hail – game should be suspended during hail and game not recommenced till surface safe to play on.
- Thunder and lightning – if the time between lightning flash and the thunder sound is less than 30 seconds apart then play should be suspended immediately and not resume for 30 minutes after the last thunder.
- Extreme wind
- Heavy rain –flooding

If any of the above conditions are occurring at the programmed start time for a fixture, the umpires in consultation with team captains may elect to delay the start of the fixture by up to 30 minutes.

If no prospect for the game to occur after the 30 minutes the match will be abandoned and one of the following will occur.

- a 0-0 drawn result is recorded for the fixture, or
- rescheduling of the fixture. If rescheduling is not possible then back to option of 0-0 result.

If a game is in progress has to be abandoned in the first half due to bad weather the captains are to determine which of the following will occur.

- remaining time can be played at a later date, or
- a 0-0 result can be recorded if no scores.

If a game in progress has to be abandoned in the second half due to bad weather the score as it stands at the time of the decision will be the final score for the game and the remaining time will not be rescheduled.

*Please not the term captain has been used, in junior grades the coaches will make the decisions.*

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