

**Reference Number:** NSA-POL-32-2  
**Date Reviewed:** 1 October 2015  
**Date Board Approved:** 29 October 2015

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## **Overview**

Netball SA is committed to the safety and well-being of its members and those playing netball throughout South Australia. As such, the following guidelines have been developed after research and consultation with appropriate bodies in relation to the conduct of the game of Netball under extreme weather conditions.

These guidelines are recommended for adoption or use as a guide by the controlling body of a netball activity, ie. Member Clubs, Associations and Regions. In all circumstances the controlling body is responsible and urged to ensure duty of care of participants, coaches, umpires and spectators; and to exercise caution and monitor weather conditions before commencing, continuing or terminating netball activities.

## **Purpose**

The purpose of these guidelines are to assist members of Netball SA in their awareness and decision making in times of adverse wet weather or extreme heat conditions. It is preferable that netball activities are not cancelled, however, if the weather conditions are extreme and conditions become dangerous to participants, it is in the best interests to postpone or cancel activities. Safety of participants is paramount.

It is recommended these guidelines be read in conjunction with Netball SA's Extreme Weather Policy (NSA-POL-06-2) and Sports Medicine Australia's 'Hot Weather Guidelines for Sporting Clubs and Associations.'

## **Guidelines**

Due to changeable weather conditions, the decision to postpone or cancel netball activities should be made carefully and on the day of play if possible, to ensure participants are given every opportunity to play netball.

Should a decision be made to postpone or cancel netball activities, every attempt should be made by Associations and Clubs to communicate changes to those affected as quickly as possible.

## **Hot Weather**

In times of very hot weather, start times of games or other netball activities may be delayed or cancelled. Shorter quarters and more drink breaks may be allowed.

As a general guide, if temperatures are forecast for over 34°C on the day of play, it is recommended that associations and clubs monitor weather forecasts and modify or cancel activities if necessary.

The Netball SA Extreme Weather Policy (NSA-POL-06-2) in conjunction with the Sports Medicine Australia guidelines can be used as a guide when making decisions in time of extreme weather conditions.

## **Catastrophic Fire danger**

In the event of a day of Catastrophic Fire Danger (100+ reading), it is recommended that all netball activities in the area affected be cancelled. This clause will override any guidelines contained within this document.

## **Wet Weather**

Netball is traditionally an outdoor, winter sport and as such, it is recommended that all netball activities should proceed where possible unless the conditions are considered unsafe.

When severe weather is forecast, Associations and clubs should initiate procedures and monitor weather reports. Based on information received from local and state weather authorities a decision may be made to cancel activities. Consideration needs to be given to many factors including;

- Amount and intensity of rain
- Thunderstorm activity with lightning
- Water volume on courts
- Lack of grip on courts
- Player age level on court

Once play has commenced, and in accordance with the Official Rules of Netball, the Umpire may stop play on their court in times of extreme weather. The umpire shall decide the length of time for the stoppage and shall ensure that play is re-started as soon as possible.

The Netball SA Extreme Weather Policy (NSA-POL-06-2) can be used as a guide when making decisions in time of extreme weather conditions.

## **Lightning & Hail Guidelines**

Where safety is compromised with hail or electrical storms, the umpire will immediately stop play or activity and follow the guidelines for protection against lightning strikes as listed.

### Hail

All play or activity must immediately cease if there is hail. All persons should seek immediate cover.

### Lightning

Netball SA's lightning safety code is based on the 30/30 rule which calls for all play to be stopped when the lightning to thunder ratio reaches 30 seconds or less (ie. the time between when the lightning is seen and the last thunder is heard, is 30 seconds or less)

When the 30 second ratio has been reached, this means that the lightning seen is approximately 10km away and the next strike has a "significant risk" of hitting the people who have seen the lightning and heard the thunder. All participants must be aware that in the event of lightning, play must not resume until 30 minutes after the last lightning strike and thunder.

Should weather conditions fail to improve, the game shall be cancelled at the discretion of the controlling body.

### **Match Results**


Where a match is cancelled, it is at the discretion of the governing Association and competition rules to decide the result of a match or whether it will be rescheduled for replay at a later time.

### **Additional Cross References**

Netball SA Extreme Weather Policy – NSA-POL-06-2  
Netball SA – Hot Weather Guidelines for Affiliated Associations & Clubs.  
Sports Medicine Australia – Hot Weather guidelines [www.sma.org.au](http://www.sma.org.au)

### **Review**

These guidelines shall be reviewed annually to ensure it meets the requirements of legislation and the guidelines set out by Sports Medicine Australia.

<b>Signed and Accepted</b> Chair of Netball SA Board	Signature: 	<b>Date Accepted:</b>	29 / 10 / 15
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