

NTNA Weather Policy



Northern Tasmania Netball Association Inc – Weather Policy

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Policy Overview

This policy covers the actions to apply in severe weather conditions within NTNA sanctioned rosters

Netball is traditionally an outdoor/all-weather sport and the NTNA's preference is not to cancel games. Player/Umpire safety is paramount and if the courts are deemed to be unsafe, matches will have to be cancelled. During periods of extreme weather, games will be suspended until deemed safe to resume by the Match Official. Match cancellations will be based on safety.

Match day checklists to be completed by the Match Official to ensure players' safety and must be revisited if weather conditions change during the competition.

The NTNA acknowledge that members may choose to play or not. If players and/or parents/guardians determine the conditions are not safe they may opt not to take the court. Our court surface is Plexipave a flexible gripping surface which reduces the risk of slipping.

1. Authority to Cancel Games

NTNA reserves the right to cancel/postpone or alter any games or events in the interest of participant health and safety.

1.1 The decision to cancel activities must be made round by round by either of the NTNA Operational Staff or the nominated Match Official. The NTNA reserves the right to only cancel particular games or time slots within a round.

The following guidelines will be used when making a decision:

- 1.1.1 Weather conditions
- 1.1.2 Lack of grip on the court
- 1.1.3 Water volume on court
- 1.1.4 Player age/level of competition
- 1.1.5 Fitness levels/athletic ability of participants

1.2 NTNA will not cancel games due to rain. The following table is to be used when consideration is being given to cancel games or not: -

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	Frost and/or ice on the activity surface
Activity surface is wet or slippery – sweep away	Heavy Fog
Water pooling or activity on surface – sweep away	Snow (light or heavy)

1.2.1 Lightning, Snow & Hail Guidelines

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Games will automatically cease or be cancelled 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.

1.2.1.1 Hail & Snow

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

1.2.1.2 Lightning

NTNA lightning safety code is based on the 30/30 rule. Please refer to Annexure A for the definition of the 30/30 Rule.

Should weather conditions fail to improve, the game can be cancelled at the discretion of the Match Official.

1.2.2 Heat

Competition or training should be cancelled if the ambient temperature reaches 34 degrees Celsius or above or if humidity reaches over 30 on the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) index.

1.2.3 Activity's involving children

The following table provides recommendations on the management of activities in hot, dry weather conditions, specifically for children.

Ambient Temperature	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 activity Incorporate more rest and hydration breaks.
31-35	Exceeds 50%	High-Very High	Limit intensity and take more rest and hydration breaks. Limit duration to less than 60 minutes per session.
36 and above	Exceeds 30%	Extreme	Postpone games to cooler conditions, shorten the game time or cancel games.

1.2.3.1 Activity's involving adults

The most effective way to measure the risk of activities in hot weather for adults, is by measuring the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) or by obtaining information from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM). www.bom.gov.au

The following table provides recommendations on the management of activities in hot, dry weather conditions, specifically for adults.

WBGT	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	Reduce intensity and take more rest and hydration breaks. Limit duration to less than 60 minutes per session – consider shortening the game time.
30 and above	Extreme	Postpone games to cooler conditions, shorten the game time or cancel games.

1.3 Fire, Smoke and Haze Procedures

A proactive approach is at times necessary and details about local weather conditions can be obtained from the BOM, www.bom.gov.au

- 1.3.1 In the event that weather conditions are conducive to the spread of dangerous bush fires BOM will issue Fire Weather Warnings of the potential onset of hazardous conditions. These warnings will also be broadcast on radio and television.
- 1.3.2 If prior warning is received on the potential onset of hazardous conditions, including bushfires, smoke and haze, NTNA will make a decision on whether the activity is to be altered, cancelled or postponed ensuring the safety of participants as soon as reasonably possible.
- 1.3.3 If prior warning is not received and hazardous conditions are approaching, the NTNA or match official will endeavour to contact the relevant authorities and will follow all instructions given.
- 1.3.4 If needed, venue evacuation will be handled by either the NTNA, match official or their delegates.

2 Junior Roster Parent/Guardian Right

- 2.1 A junior roster player's parents/guardians may decide whether the player takes the court if affected by weather conditions.

3 Game Modification/Rescheduling

3.1 The NTNA or Match Official has the right to adjust the duration of quarters and/or intervals of games to ensure the safety of players and officials.

3.1.1 Where a match is cancelled/delayed it is at the discretion of the NTNA to decide the result of a match or whether it will be rescheduled for replay at a later time.

4 Player/Umpire Uniform

4.1 As per INF Rules of Netball Clause 5.1.1

a) Midweek competition: as per Rule 10.5 of Midweek Policy

b) Junior competition: as per Rule 12.5 of Junior Policy

c) Net Set Go competition: as per Junior Policy, Appendix A Rule 14

5 Point Allocation

5.1 **Cancelled with sufficient play for result:**

Where a match is cancelled once play has commenced in the 3rd Quarter, the current score stands, and a result is achieved.

5.2 **Cancelled before Result:**

Where a match is cancelled before the completion of the second quarter the match will be judged a draw and points allocated as per the draw rules of the roster.

5.3 **Cancelled before start:**

Where a match is cancelled, by NTNA for health and safety of participants, no points will be allocated.

5.4 **Failure to take the court:**

If individual coaches consider that the conditions are unsafe to play due to extreme weather but matches have not officially been postponed or cancelled;

5.4.1 The two coaches of the opposing teams for any match (other than during finals) may declare a mutual forfeit. Any fees paid will not be refunded and no forfeit fee will apply.

5.4.2 In the event that during any match, the Coach of only one team feels conditions are unsafe to play, this team may forfeit the match in its own right and normal forfeit procedures shall apply.

6 Notification

6.1 The NTNA will keep Clubs, Players and Officials up to date where possible of weather-related issues via its social media platforms.

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- 6.2 The NTNA Operational Staff or Match Official will use the NTNA loudspeaker to convey immediate instruction of weather disruptions.
- 6.3 The NTNA reserves the right to cancel/reschedule a game due to unsafe weather conditions up to one (1) hour prior to game start time.

7 Club Responsibilities

- 7.1 To make sure that all players/parents and guardians are aware of the NTNA Weather Policy
- 7.2 To make contact with the Match Official if weather conditions deteriorate during the course of a round.
- 7.3 To ensure teams attend all rostered games

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Annexure A

Activity	To encompass all NTNA organised events. Includes but not limited to competitions, player camps, team selections, trainings, meetings, courses and presentations
Ambient Temperature	Temperature of the surrounding air, not taking into account humidity or wind in the air.
Dehydration	Loss of body water and salts essential for normal body function. Excessive dehydration in a sporting environment may lead to heat exhaustion and heat stroke.
Drizzle	To rain gently in fine, mist like drops.
Fog	Condensed water vapour in cloudlike masses lying close to the ground and limiting visibility.
Frost	A deposit of miniature ice crystals formed when water vapour condenses at a temperature below freezing.
Heat Exhaustion	A form of heat illness characterized by a high heart rate, dizziness, headache, confusion, nausea and loss of endurance/skill.
Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WGBT)	Is a composite temperature used to estimate the effect of temperature, humidity wind speed (wind chill, and visible and infrared radiation, usually sunlight) on humans. It is used determine approximate exposure levels to high temperature.
30/30 Rule	If it takes less than 30 seconds to hear thunder after seeing the flash, lightning is near enough to pose a threat; after the storm ends, wait 30 minutes prior to resuming outdoor activities.