



POLICY TITLE: Weather Policy

RELATED POLICIES:	Bowls Australia Weather Policy BTAS State Events Conditions of Play BTAS State-Wide Challenge Conditions of Play
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Chief Executive Officer
AUTHORITY:	Chief Executive Officer
APPLICABLE FORMS:	Nil
APPROVED:	August 2023
REVIEW DATE:	August 2026

1. PRINCIPLE

- 1.1 Bowls Tasmania (BTAS) strives to ensure that its members participate in the game of bowls in the safest environment possible and with minimum risk of harm. The safety of players and officials will remain the paramount consideration.
- 1.2 The decision to suspend or discontinue play as a result of adverse weather or climate conditions remains the discretion of the Controlling Body. In BTAS's case that is the BTAS Chief Executive Officer or the BTAS Tournament Director.
- 1.3 BTAS provides the following Weather Policy for use during all BTAS events.

2. WHERE BOWLS TASMANIA IS THE CONTROLLING BODY

- 2.1 At all events where BTAS is the Controlling Body, the following methods may be used to assess and monitor the weather and climate conditions at the event's location:
 - 2.1.1 Bureau of Meteorology website (www.bom.gov.au);
 - 2.1.2 Weatherzone website (www.weatherzone.com.au) or its pocket weather application which is accessible on smart phones; or
 - 2.1.3 Any other appropriate portable measuring device.

3. MONITORING AND MANAGING EXTREME WEATHER OR CLIMATE CONDITIONS

- 3.1. Before the start of the event, the BTAS Chief Executive Officer or the BTAS Tournament Director will monitor the expected temperatures and weather for the duration of the event.
- 3.2 Before the start of play each day, the temperature and other criteria will be assessed and an announcement to all players will be made warning them of any expected extreme temperatures, weather or climate conditions, if appropriate. Players will also be made aware that the BTAS Weather Policy may be invoked during the event.
- 3.3 Players should consider their own health limitations before commencing play on a day of forecast extreme weather.
- 3.4 When the BTAS Chief Executive Officer or the BTAS Tournament Director deems the temperature (as indicated using one of the methods listed in point 2.1 above) has reached the ambient temperature / Wet Bulb Globe Temperature index outlined in Appendix One, play will be suspended by the BTAS Chief Executive Officer or the BTAS Tournament Director and all players will complete the end they are currently playing and move from the green to a cool, shady area. If the end is declared dead, the end will be replayed if and when the game is restarted.
- 3.5 When the BTAS Chief Executive Officer or the BTAS Tournament Director determines the temperature has fallen below the recommended guidelines, play should resume.
- 3.6 Players, officials and spectators should at all times be encouraged to wear hats or other sun protection. It is recommended that a suitable hat be part of any uniform and that sunscreen be worn as appropriate. Drinks should be available at every venue where play/competition takes place. Tap or safe drinking water should be available free of charge and in unlimited quantities.
- 3.7 Where available, shelter should be offered for players and officials not involved in current play.

4. MONITORING AND MANAGING WET / COLD WEATHER

- 4.1 Before the start of the event, the BTAS Chief Executive Officer or the BTAS Tournament Director will monitor the expected conditions for the duration of the event as per 2.1.
- 4.2 If it begins to rain, play will continue until the BTAS Chief Executive Officer or the BTAS Tournament Director deems it unsafe to do so or the greens become unplayable.
- 4.3 In making the decision, the BTAS Chief Executive Officer or the BTAS Tournament Director will utilise the methods listed in 2.1 to gain an understanding of the rain patterns in the immediate area.
- 4.4 When the BTAS Chief Executive Officer or the BTAS Tournament Director deems it safe to return to the green, play should resume as per Law 33 – Game Stoppages.

5. LIGHTNING

- 5.1 Lightning can strike without other typical storm characteristics (i.e., thunder, rain and wind) being present.
- 5.2 When lightning is sighted by the BTAS Chief Executive Officer or the BTAS Tournament Director, they will suspend play and all players will be required to leave the green immediately and move to a safe structure.
- 5.3 When the BTAS Chief Executive Officer or the BTAS Tournament Director deems it safe to return to the green, play should resume as per Law 33 – Game Stoppages.

6. CHANGES TO CONDITIONS OF PLAY

- 6.1 The BTAS Chief Executive Officer or the BTAS Tournament Director have authority to change BTAS Conditions of Play to address extreme weather conditions.
- 6.2 Such changes can include but are not limited to amending the format and length of games to achieve a result and reduce the risk, starting play earlier or finishing later, or moving games to alternative greens, surfaces or indoor centres.

7. GENERAL DUTY OF CARE

- 7.1 BTAS Chief Executive Officer and the BTAS Tournament Director need to be aware of their duty of care to ensure the health and safety of players and officials during extreme heat conditions. The health and safety of players and officials will remain the paramount consideration in deciding whether to interrupt, suspend or abandon play.
- 7.2 Players have a responsibility to ensure that the impact of environmental factors such as extreme heat is not exacerbated by their own conduct. Accordingly, they have a responsibility to ensure adequate fluid intake, apply sun protection factor 30+ sunscreen in sunny conditions and to wear appropriate clothing including headwear.

8. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR REGIONS AND CLUBS

- 8.1 Regions and Clubs should refer to this Policy to determine the correct approach to all play not involving a BTAS event, unless a Region or Club has its own Weather Policy.
- 8.2 The safety of players and officials should remain the paramount consideration at all times.

APPENDIX ONE - EXTREME WEATHER OR CLIMATE CONDITIONS

OUTDOORS:

The following will apply for BTAS events played outdoors:

- (a) When the ambient temperature reaches 32 degrees in the shade, play / competition **MUST** be interrupted at 20-minute intervals (at the completion of the end in-play) for a period of five (5) minutes, during which time, drinks should be made available. Any time limit imposed on the interrupted match will be waived.
- (b) When the ambient temperature reaches 35 degrees in the shade, play / competition **MUST** be suspended until the temperature drops to 32 degrees.

INDOORS:

For BTAS events played indoors, temperature readings will be taken by the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) index only. This is deemed to be the most applicable test for the conditions inside an indoor centre, away from direct sunlight and with humidity a determining factor.

- (a) When the WBGT index reaches 30, play / competition **MUST** be interrupted at 20-minute intervals (at the completion of the end in play) for a period of five (5) minutes, during which time, drinks should be made available. Any time limit imposed on the interrupted match will be waived.
- (b) When the WBGT index reaches 32, play / competition **MUST** be suspended until the WBGT index drops to 30.

Note: If an appropriate WBGT portable measuring device is not available, the current WBGT index can be found on the Tasmania section of the Bureau of Meteorology website (www.bom.gov.au) – under the Thermal heading and then the Thermal Comfort Observations – WBGT and Apparent Temperature for Tasmania – using the WBGT index recorded at the closest weather station to the indoor centre.