

2023 Oceania Championships

Heat and Adverse Weather Policy



Version: 1.1 Version Effective: 23/10/2023

1. 2023 OCEANIA CHAMPIONSHIPS

Shooting Australia (SA) will organise and host the 2023 Oceania Shooting Federation Championships (OCH) on behalf of the Oceania Shooting Federation (OSF), between 30 October and 6 November, 2023. The OCH will be held in Brisbane, Queensland with events taking place at the Brisbane International Shooting Centre (pistol and rifle) and Brisbane Gun Club.(shotgun).

2. RESPONSIBILITY AND DUTY OF CARE

SA as the Local Organising Committee (LOC) has a duty of care to monitor environmental conditions encompassing heat and adverse weather.

It is the responsibility of the LOC and the Technical Delegate (TD) to examine weather forecasts prior to the commencement of competition to determine any possible adverse weather conditions that may impact the event and result in a delay, postponement/rescheduling or abandonment.

SA will take proactive action to minimise the impact of heat and/or adverse weather on athletes, officials, volunteers and spectators attending the OCH.

3. AUTHORITY

Prior to the commencement of competition, or during competition, the TD, in consultation with the LOC, has the authority to make any decisions relating to abandonment, postponements, rescheduling or delays.

4. HEAT AND ADVERSE WEATHER DEFINITIONS

Heat

Heat indices

Very hot days Annual count of days with maximum temperature > 40°C

Hot days Annual count of days with maximum temperature > 35°C

Very hot nights Annual count of nights with minimum temperature > 25°C

Humidity – Humidity is the amount of water vapor in the air. If there is a lot of water vapor in the air, the humidity will be high. High humidity can have adverse affects on participants, affecting ability to compete and perform delegated duties which may affect the delivery of the competition.

Adverse Weather

Rain – heavy and persistent rain causing a delay or making setting up the Field of Play impractical, unsafe or causes undue damage to equipment and/or the range.

Flooding – due to heavy and persistent rain leading to safety concerns and possible impact to access of the range.

Lightning – a giant spark of electricity in the atmosphere between clouds, the air, or the ground with the potential for electrocution risk to outdoor participants and fire risk to surrounding bushland and potentially to buildings.

Wind – Wind can be a gentle breeze or a strong gale caused by a change in temperature of air, land and water. Wind gusts reaching 30kms per hour or the Bureau of Meteorology website www.bom.gov.au predicts wind gusts greater than 30kms per hour (8.3m per second) may cause damage and potentially result in the outdoor ranges being deemed unsafe.

Hail – small, hard balls of ice that fall from the sky like rain. usually accompanied by dark storm clouds and strong winds, which may cause injury to participants and damage to equipment and/or facilities.

Failing Light – failing or reduced light levels that may impact the competition including the safety of the competitors, officials, venue staff and or the public.

Fire – when inflammable material burns, producing heat, flames, and often smoke, causing a hazardous area both at the fire site and surrounding areas including smoke impact and potential inaccessibility to the ranges

5. HEAT AND ADVERSE WEATHER COUNTERMEASURES

- Air temperature, humidity level and UV index will be monitored regularly.
- Weather patterns including rainfall, hailstorms and wind speed will be monitored regularly.
- Cold water will be available at all times.
- Cool water will be available at all times for heat stress emergencies.
- Adequate shaded/covered areas (including permanent infrastructure, marquees and umbrellas) will be available at all times.
- Sunscreen stations will be available for outdoor events.
- All officials and volunteers will be provided with a cap/hat which must be worn when outdoors.
- First Aid will be available during each day of competition.
- Notices will be displayed encouraging hydration and protection from outdoor weather elements including the wearing of a cap/hat, sunscreen, appropriate clothing and sunglasses.
- Emergency Services numbers (Fire, Ambulance and Police) will be displayed clearly.
- Emergency Evacuation assembly points will be clearly marked and evacuation procedures displayed.

6. ABANDONMENT, POSTPONEMENT, RESCHEDULING, DELAYS

In the event that competition is deemed unsafe to continue due to heat or adverse weather, it may be abandoned, postponed, rescheduled or delayed. In such case, the TD in collaboration with the LOC, will work through the most suitable scenario for the completion of the impacted competition. Appropriate communication will be provided to athletes, officials, volunteers and spectators including verbal, official noticeboard, SA website and social media.

7. REFERENCES / RESOURCES

Extreme Heat Index

This policy references the Heat Index from [Sports Medicine Australia's Extreme Heat Policy v1.0 February 2021](#), under Sport Risk Classification 2.

To predict the heat risk associated with participation in a relevant sporting classification, the temperature and humidity for the location where competition or practice will be taking place needs to be acquired. It is essential that the peak temperature during the time of play is used **with the accompanying relative humidity at that specific time**. If the peak relative humidity is used for a particular day, which usually occurs when temperature is lowest, heat stress risk will be over-estimated and competition unnecessarily disrupted or cancelled.

To obtain a forecast of temperature and humidity for the upcoming 72 hours:

1. Visit: <http://www.bom.gov.au/places/> and enter your location/post code.
2. Click on: "DETAILED 3-HOURLY FORECAST"
3. Select the specific day/date of enquiry
4. Identify the column with the nearest time to the planned competition/practice
5. Note the "Air Temperature (°C)" value
6. AND IN THE SAME COLUMN, note the concurrent "Relative Humidity (%)" value found towards the bottom of the entry for that date

ISSF Rules

[ISSF Rule Book](#)

9.11.1.2 Programme Interruptions Once shooting has started it must continue without interruption according to the programme, except for safety reasons, mechanical breakdowns, poor lighting conditions, extreme weather conditions, or other enforced delays in the programme that would seriously affect the quality of competition. Only the Chief Range Officer may interrupt the shooting, with the Jury's approval, in the event of heavy rain, storm or lightning.