

Shooting Australia Endorsed Events

Heat and Adverse Weather Policy



Version: 1.0

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1. COMMITMENT

Shooting Australia (**SA**) and the 2024 Endorsed Event Hosts (**Hosts**) have a duty of care to monitor environmental conditions and to take action to minimise the risk of heat stress to athletes, officials, volunteers and spectators attending any SA Endorsed Events (**Events**).

In addition to any heat risk, SA and the Hosts also have a duty of care to monitor any environmental conditions including adverse weather that may impact the delivery of an Event and those participating in it.

2. RESPONSIBILITY AND DUTY OF CARE

It is the responsibility of the Hosts in conjunction with SA 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.

The Host, in consultation with any SA representatives present as well as the appointed Technical Delegate (TD) for the Event will take proactive action to minimise the impact of heat and/or adverse weather on athletes, officials, volunteers and spectators attending the Event.

3. AUTHORITY

Prior to the commencement of the Event, or during the Event, the Host, in consultation with SA and the appointed TD, has the authority to make any decisions relating to abandonment, postponements, rescheduling or delays in the best interests of all participants.

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

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 effects 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 made available.
- Ice will be made available for heat stress emergencies.
- Provision of shaded/covered areas (including permanent infrastructure, marquees and umbrellas) will be considered as part of the event planning process.
- 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.
- A First Aid representative will be appointed during each day of competition.

6. ABANDONMENT, POSTPONEMENT, RESCHEDULING, DELAYS

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

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.