



HILLS DISTRICT NETBALL ASSOCIATION

ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS GUIDELINES

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to aid decision making in times of extreme weather events. It is recognised that undertaking activities during adverse weather conditions could increase risk to participants. Adverse weather conditions can include: wet weather; lightning; air quality; hot weather. HDNA seeks to provide a safe and fair environment for all those involved in netball.

2. CONDITIONS

A proactive approach should be undertaken prior to the event to assess the severity of conditions. There are several government websites which provide details about local weather conditions:

- The BOM (Bureau of Meteorology) website provides details about local weather conditions.
- The NSW Department of Planning, Industry and the Environment provides the Air Quality Index detailing local air quality which is updated hourly

Wet Weather

As a rule, play will continue unless the rain is persistent and heavy. The courts are all weather courts and have been designed to be played on in wet conditions. If the risk assessment prior to the start of play indicates that the courts have excessive mud or mould on them then this must be taken into consideration when deciding about playing matches in wet conditions.

Play will continue through light rain or a passing shower, even if that shower is heavy.

Lightning

Play will be stopped if there is lightning in the area, regardless of whether it is raining or not.

Air Quality

In hazardous air quality conditions, everyone may experience more serious health effects. Consideration should be given to the health and age of participants. Susceptible groups include asthmatics, older and younger participants, people with lung disease, people with cardio-vascular disease, pregnant women. These groups should avoid all outdoor activities. For all other participants, NSW Health advises that outdoor activities should be *significantly* reduced in duration.

Hot Weather

In hot weather conditions (ambient temperature 30 degrees and above) consideration should be given to game management activities eg shortening duration, postponing to a cooler part of the day, rescheduling, venue change. Again, the age, fitness & medical conditions of participants should be considered.

3. GUIDELINES

A minimum of two of the Association Executive shall make decisions regarding the abandonment of play.

Decisions made before the start of play:

Winter Competition: Decisions made before the start of play will generally be done between the relevant Registrar/Convenor and the President. This decision will be made by 5pm Friday (for Friday competition) and 7am Saturday (for Saturday competition) and be updated on the website as soon as possible.

Night Competition: A decision regarding the abandonment of play shall be made by the Night Competition Convenor and one other HDNA Executive by 5pm on the night of play. In the event of no play, an email will be sent to all Team Managers and the website will updated as soon as possible.

Decisions made at the courts:

Should involve at least two Executive members, however as many “free” members of the Exec should be consulted before play is stopped. A free Executive member is one who is not playing, coaching, or umpiring during the timeslot, or is not due to play / coach / umpire in the time slot in question, if the decision is being made about a single time slot.

The Executive will, as far as conditions allow, aim to complete play or at least secure a result (at least half time).

The Executive will also be cognizant of whether the suspension / cancellation of play would require a make-up day.

If a team chooses to forfeit a game after the Executive Committee has decided to continue play, they will not be fined. However, in all cases they are expected to take the court and assess the conditions before nominating to forfeit the game. The team receiving a forfeit will receive two competition points.

If both teams decide to abandon the game before half time, then it will be treated as a draw and each team will receive one competition point. In the case of a joint decision to abandon play after half time then the team who was winning at half time will receive two competition points.

In the last 3 rounds of competition the decision to abandon play must be mutually agreed between both teams.

The Executive should remind all teams in adverse weather conditions that they have the option of choosing to forfeit a game. The team forfeiting the game or the mutual decision to abandon, must be noted on the scoresheet, together with the point in the game at which play was abandoned.

Park Closure

There may be occasion when Pennant Hills Park is closed by Council, RFS etc. The HDNA website will be updated as soon as practicable to advise of the closure.

4. REFERENCES

HDNA By Law 21 – Wet Weather

HDNA Fire Evacuation Procedure

NNSW Adverse Weather Conditions Policy