

Quidditch Australia Adverse Weather Policy

Section 1. Extreme Heat

(i) When invoking the QA Extreme Heat Policy in a game, the following procedures must be followed:

- (1) The head referee is required to blow a stoppage of play as soon as is practicable after 10 minutes have elapsed, at a time where none of the game balls are being actively contested.
- (2) Players are to leave their brooms and balls in place where they were at the moment the whistle is blown, functionally similar to a standard timeout.
- (3) The stoppage is to last for five minutes.
- (4) The starting procedure after the allotted time elapses will match that of a timeout, play shall restart with all players in position where they stopped and balls will start where they were before the stoppage, including any loose on the ground.
- (5) The procedure shall be repeated if the match subsequently reaches 30 minutes duration and again at 20 minute intervals henceforth.

(ii) In order for a tournament or match to remain eligible for QA insurance coverage, event sanctioning, and official match qualification status, each of the associated actions must be taken when the playing field temperature fall within each of the following reference points:

- (1) When the temperature at the event reaches over 35 degrees Celsius, this policy must be instituted.
 - (A) If forecasts for the event are over 35 degrees Celsius with over 80 percent humidity, the tournament director must institute the policy the evening prior and for safety assurances and gameplay fairness, retain the policy for the duration of that day's play.
 - (B) In all other forecast cases, a tournament director must either institute the policy the evening prior if there is any reasonable risk of 36 degrees Celsius or beyond being reached and if there are no temperature measuring devices on site, in order to ensure that play does not accidentally take place in unsafe conditions.
 - (C) If temperature measuring devices are on site, they may be followed live as necessary, with the policy instituted for individual games if the temperature reaches 36 degrees Celsius or beyond before brooms up of any respective match.
- (2) When the temperature at the event falls between 30 and 35 degrees Celsius, the policy may be instituted at the tournament director's discretion.
 - (A) Play is only deemed formally unsafe and will automatically void QA insurance and event coverage if temperatures reach 36 degrees Celsius at game start.
 - (B) However if temperatures are between 30 and 35 degrees Celsius and deemed to be unsafe for any reason (e.g. high humidity or lack

of available water on site) a tournament director may at their discretion institute the policy for individual games.

(C) When the temperature at the event falls below 30 degrees Celsius, the policy may not be instituted.

(iii) In order to preserve the sanctity and fairness of the game as intended to be played in the 2018-2020 IQA Rulebook, the Extreme Heat Policy should only be considered in suitable extreme conditions. A game will not be considered for official match status if the procedures of the policy are followed despite the temperature being below 30 degrees Celsius.

Section 2. Wet Weather

(i) In order for a tournament or match to remain eligible for QA insurance coverage, event sanctioning, and official match qualification status, each of the associated actions must be taken when player safety has been in any way compromised by non-heat related dangerous weather conditions:

- (1) For the purposes of this section, dangerous weather conditions are considered to be any presence of lightning or hail, excessive rain that significantly limits player visibility, or excessive mud that dangerously compromises a player's ability to move (e.g. they are sinking up to their ankles).
- (2) If a game is ongoing when dangerous weather has manifested, the head referee must call a timeout for a period of 10 minutes or until such weather conditions have abated. If the 10 minute period has elapsed without any significant change in the weather, the match must be adjourned for a period of no less than half an hour. The match may be restarted with a brooms up after such a period if the weather conditions have abated. A restart of the match retains the score and game time as it was before the adjournment.
- (3) If such conditions have manifested before the outset of a match, the tournament director must reschedule the match for a minimum for 30 minutes. If conditions persist after such a time, the tournament director may give an additional rescheduling of match/es for either 30 or 60 minutes (to the nearest 15 minute interval where appropriate). If after the second rescheduling period there is no prospect of a favourable change in conditions, the tournament director must adjourn play for the day.
- (4) If play is resumed but the dangerous conditions return, this procedure restarts from the beginning. If this policy has been restarted for the third time in a single day, the tournament director must instead abandon play for the remainder of the day.

Section 3. Hazardous Air Quality

This policy is designed to protect the health and safety of players in the event of hazardous air quality. High levels of airborne pollutants, ground level ozone, other dangerous gases, but especially particles, can be dangerous, particularly to more

vulnerable players such as asthmatics, and anyone else with heart, lung, or respiratory issues. Dangers can be compounded when playing intense sports such as quidditch, where active participants and vocal spectators will be inhaling at higher rates than at rest, breathing is deeper so more parts of the lungs can be affected, and breathing is typically through the mouth, bypassing natural air filtration systems in the nasal cavity. The Air Quality Index (AQI) provides a comparison of air pollutants, standardising measurements into a composite index scale, which will be referred to in this policy.

Quidditch Australia’s policy is based off policies of other sporting associations in Australia and internationally, and designed to be in line with our existing extreme weather policies, such as the extreme heat policy.

While this policy is designed to help protect player safety, it is not designed to stand as a replacement for awareness of the health risks of playing with hazardous air quality, which can be different for different individuals, and does not stop players and teams from making their own decisions about what is best for them, in their circumstances.

Resources are included at the end of this document to help players inform themselves of the risks of playing in poor air quality, what individuals are particularly at risk, what the warning signs are, and how to mitigate personal risk. Given the poor conditions in NSW this past month, and likely poor conditions over the weekend, it is strongly advised that all players and especially team captains/managers/leadership familiarise themselves with this.

(i) Actions to be taken at incrementally higher AQI levels are as follows:

AQI	Player Recommendation	Policy
0-100	Air quality is “Very Good” to “Fair”. Hazardous Air Policy cannot come into effect.	
100-150 (“Poor”)	Sensitive individuals should exert caution and minimise playing for prolonged periods if possible.	<p>The Hazardous Air Policy may come into effect for particular games at the Tournament Director’s discretion, for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● High temperatures ● Lack of water ● Teams have few available players ● Teams have high proportion of sensitive individuals ● Any other reason that makes the Tournament Director believe that players may have to exert themselves for prolonged periods of time, thus putting themselves at risk

150-200 ("Very Poor")	Sensitive individuals should avoid playing if possible. All individuals should monitor for respiratory difficulty	The Level 1 Hazardous Air Policy must now come into effect. The Level 2 Hazardous Air Policy may come into effect at the Tournament Director's discretion for reasons listed above.
200-300 ("Hazardous")	Sensitive individuals should not play. Prolonged strenuous activity should be avoided if possible	The Level 2 Hazardous Air Policy must now come into effect. The Tournament Director can cancel or postpone games at their discretion, for reasons listed above.
300+	Games should be cancelled or postponed until air quality improves.	

(1) The Hazardous Air Quality Policy may be implemented in two levels.

(A) Level 1 – The Policy is invoked 10 minutes into the game with a first stoppage of play as per the procedure outlined, and this is repeated every 15 minutes following.

(B) Level 2 – The Policy is invoked 10 minutes into the game with a first stoppage of play as per the procedure outlined, and this is repeated every 10 minutes following.

(2) Invoking the Hazardous Air Quality Policy will work the same way as for invoking the Extreme Heat Policy. Briefly, in a game, the following procedures are to be followed:

1. The Head Referee calls a stoppage of play at a point where it is convenient to do so (i.e. no balls are being actively contested).

2. Players are to leave balls and brooms on field as per a time out.

3. Stoppage of play will last for 5 minutes to give players a chance to rest.

4. Play will restart after 5 minutes have elapsed, as per a time out, with all players in position where they stopped and balls starting where they were before stoppage.

(ii) In the event of high AQI levels being forecast ahead of the event, the following actions may be taken on the evening beforehand, to maximise fairness between games:

AQI Forecast	Actions to be taken
100-150 ("Poor")	The Tournament Director may institute a minimum Level 1 Hazardous Air Policy on all games, at their discretion, for reasons including but not

	limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High temperatures also forecast • High fire danger or other reasons to suspect conditions may become worse than predicted
150-200 ("Very Poor")	Level 1 Hazardous Air Policy must be implemented for all games and should be retained for fairness
200-300 ("Hazardous")	A minimum of Level 2 Hazardous Air Policy must be implemented for all games. This should ideally be retained for fairness, but in the event of significant improvements to AQI during the day, this may be deescalated to Level 1 at the discretion of the Tournament Director.
300+	Serious consideration should be given to cancelling, moving or postponing the event.

Ultimately, primary responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of each athlete rests with the athlete or, in the case of junior athletes, with the athlete's parents, coach, club or school.

Different individuals may respond very differently to levels of AQI, based on their sensitivity to poor air quality, and should take care to be aware of their own potential vulnerabilities, and act accordingly.

Players should also make the effort to educate themselves of the potential short and long term risks of high intake of particle pollutants (such as smoke), to help inform their own decisions about whether or not they wish to play. Additional resources are provided below.

Additional resources:

Air Quality Overview from NSW Health (**Recommended For All Team Leadership**):
<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/air/Pages/default.aspx>

More information and AQI forecasting in NSW:
<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/air/current-air-quality/air-quality-index-values>

Football NSW Air Quality Warning:
<https://footballnsw.com.au/2019/11/21/air-quality-warning-tuesday-19-november-2019/>

NCAA Air Quality Recommendations:
<http://www.ncaa.org/sport-science-institute/air-quality>