



RAIDERS
CANBERRA REGION
RUGBY LEAGUE

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EXTREME WEATHER POLICY

DATE :
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COMPILED BY :
Canberra Region Rugby League



Preamble

Canberra Region Rugby League recognises the dangers of extreme weather and the need to ensure our members are protected by the appropriate policies.

The purpose of this Extreme Weather Policy is to provide a system that sets out procedures and guidelines to the members of Canberra Region Rugby League for events of extreme weather during CRRL matches, competitions and programs.

This policy document includes guidelines and procedures for the following adverse weather conditions:

1. Heat and Humidity
2. Cold Weather
3. Thunderstorms and Lightning (including Hail)
4. Poor Air Quality

This policy applies to all members of the CRRL clubs, member associations and member affiliated associations and stands complimentary to those of the New South Wales Rugby League as an affiliate of the NSWRL.

1. Abandonment due to Weather Events

- 1.1. Representative/s of Canberra Region Rugby League and/or presiding match officials may postpone, delay or abandon any competition match where they have reason to believe that safety of participants and/or spectators may be placed at risk of harm.
- 1.2. Where regular competition matches are abandoned with less than one half of the game being completed, those matches will be replayed at a later date.
- 1.3. Where regular competition matches are with more than one half of the game being completed, the result of those matches at the half time period will be recorded as the final result.

2. Heat and Humidity

- 2.1. To ensure all tournaments and competitions conducted by CRRL are consistent, the temperature must be taken from the Bureau of Meteorology website at <https://www.bom.gov.au/act/observations/canberra.shtml?ref=dropdown>
- 2.2. Considerations must be given to the effects of heat and humidity on all participants – during the warmer months of the year, clubs and team officials should:
 - 2.2.1. Provide information in relation to sun safety
 - 2.2.2. Schedule games and training for cooler parts of the day or evening (if available and possible)
 - 2.2.3. Check forecast and local weather conditions
 - 2.2.4. Ensure regular hydration by players, officials, spectators, and other participants
- 2.3. For all age groups;**
 - 2.3.1. When the ambient temperature reaches 30°C or above, the match official may allow a two-minute break during play of each half. (breaks will be taken at suitable breaks in play, as determined by the match official, and the time is not to stop or be delayed during this drink break).
- 2.4. 15 Years and Under Competitions**
 - 2.4.1. When the ambient temperature reaches 34°C or above, the match in progress shall be abandoned (or rescheduled, if applicable). New matches must not commence until the ambient temperature decreases to under 33°C.
- 2.5. 16 Years and Over Competitions**
 - 2.5.1. Ambient temperature reaches 37°C or above, the match in progress shall be abandoned (or rescheduled, if applicable).

- 2.5.2. New matches must not commence until the ambient temperature decreases to under 36°C.

3. Cold Weather

- 3.1. To ensure all tournaments and competitions conducted by CRRL are consistent, the temperature must be taken from the Bureau of Meteorology website at <https://www.bom.gov.au/act/observations/canberra.shtml?ref=dropdown>
- 3.2. During cold weather, clubs and team officials should:
- 3.2.1. Allow the use of appropriate long/warm training and playing attire as approved by Canberra Region Rugby League and/or match officials.
 - 3.2.2. Provide blankets and long coats for players waiting/sitting on the bench
 - 3.2.3. Allow for additional time for players to warm up in preparation of training/game play.
 - 3.2.4. For players on the bench, ensure they continue to be active and warm-up whilst waiting/sitting on the sideline.
- 3.3. At a temperature of -2°C, the match in progress shall be abandoned (or rescheduled, if applicable).
- 3.4. New matches must not commence until the ambient temperature increases to above -1°C. F

4. Electrical Storms

- 4.1. To assess the distance of lightning from the listener (person at one destination), use the 30-second rule
- 4.1.1. less than 30 seconds between when the listener sights the lightning and hears the thunder, the lightning is within 10 km of the listener (30 seconds at the speed of sound is approx. 10.2km).
- 4.2. When a lightning strike is within 10km of the event, officials and administrators who are responsible for the event must suspend play and ensure players, officials, coaching staff and guests are removed from the area to a safe place, such as a large, structurally sound building.
- 4.3. Match officials should note where the ball was stopped, and which team had possession (if any) for game restart.
- 4.4. Where lightning is observed, play should be suspended until 15 minutes after the last lightning event.

5. Air Quality

- 5.1. Clause 5 refers to any situation in which the air quality is compromised and presents a risk to players, officials, and spectators.
- 5.2. Canberra Region Rugby League member clubs must ensure that all asthmatic athletes and athletes who have pre-existing medical conditions have an updated Medical/Asthma Management Plan and consultation with their personal doctor, prior to exercising in affected environments.
- 5.3. If smoke is present, it is recommended that the source is determined to ensure that the smoke is not toxic, not likely to worsen or is not due to a fire in the vicinity.
 - 5.3.1. If the smoke presents any danger, through reduction in visibility or ability to breathe properly, then the officials or relevant league administrators must suspend, or cancel play and all patrons removed to a safe area.

The following links is updated hourly with accurate AQI readings:

ACT

<https://www.health.act.gov.au/about-our-health-system/population-health/environmental-monitoring/monitoring-and-regulating-air>

NSW

<https://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/air-quality/air-quality-concentration-data-updated-hourly>