

EXTREME HEAT & WEATHER POLICY

It is recognised that it may be unsafe to continue play during certain conditions of extreme weather.

This updated policy was approved by Cricket NSW Board in February 2024 and applies to:

- All Cricket NSW matches played in any competition owned, operated and/or managed directly by Cricket NSW;
- Any competition run by a Cricket NSW affiliate that formally adopts this Policy.

This Policy aims to assist in the making of objective and automatic decisions for the benefit of players, umpires, spectators and administrators.

This Policy shall apply to all fixtures.

1. HEAT STRESS

Occurs when the body cannot cool itself enough to maintain a healthy temperature (37°C).

Heat stress is caused by a combination of extreme heat and high levels of humidity that impede dissipation of heat due to a restriction of sweat evaporation.

2. POLICY DETAILS

Air temperature or “Feels Like” temperature is to be replaced by the Heat Stress Risk Index (HSRI) Tool, which has been designed to predict and measure heat stress risk.

This tool has been developed to test specific effects of climate factors on athletes’ core temperatures, rates of dehydration, sweating rates, and metabolic rates.

Differences in body size is to be applied for junior competitors.

The HSRI will assist in decisions on:

- Whether play should continue
- Heat stress mitigation strategies

The HSRI tool has been developed as a mobile App on the Cricket NSW - Ludis platform;

<https://cnsw.ludisanalytics.com/>

and is powered by a third-party dataset that gives a more complete geographical spread of real time weather information.

The HSRI tool can be added to Home Screen of smartphone, tablet or a computer for access.

3. APPLICATION AND USE

The HSRI value is to be calculated 1 hour before play by umpires and thereafter calculated on an hourly basis or upon the umpire's discretion.

Heat stress management strategies and interventions based on HSRI values can be determined by the umpires prior to the commencement of play or at any time during a day's play.

Guidance in relation to management strategies for HSRI ratings of 0 to 10 are provided as follows;

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HSRI value	Instructions
0 TO 3	HSRI rating is 0 to 3 (inclusive): conditions not extreme, manage heat as usual (drinks, wear hats, long sleeve shirts, apply sunscreen etc).
4 TO 7	HSRI rating is 4 to 7 (inclusive): a) Consult with captains to consider increasing the number and duration of drinks intervals and allow players and umpires to leave the field of play during drinks intervals; b) Consider extending the duration of lunch and/or afternoon tea intervals by 5 minutes; c) Once HSRI is greater than 5, be extra vigilant in monitoring participants that exhibit signs of heat stress illness such as muscle cramping, dizziness, excessive fatigue etc.
8 TO 10	HSRI rating is 8 to 10 (inclusive): a) Have longer drinks breaks to allow players to come off the field to cool down and rehydrate (e.g., 10 to 20 minutes instead of 5 minutes or 40 to 50 minutes followed by 10 minute breaks; b) Flexibility to increase time span of drinks lies with the umpires; c) Flexibility to take more frequent drinks breaks lies with the umpires.
11+	HSRI rating is 11 or above: a) Suspend play until conditions have improved (to less than or equal to 10); b) Refer to local competition playing conditions. play shall only resume if the HSRI has improved to 10 or less within 1 hour after a cessation of play, otherwise, the day's play shall be abandoned.

CESSATION, RESUMPTION AND ABANDONMENT OF PLAY

Where the HSRI rating is 11 or above, play will cease immediately.

Play shall only resume if the HSRI has improved to 10 or less within 1 hour after a cessation of play, otherwise, the day's play shall be abandoned.

Notwithstanding an anticipated improvement of the HSRI to 10 or below in the hour following abandonment of play, there is no requirement to wait 1 hour before a decision is made to abandon the day's play.

There shall be no discretion to allow a resumption of that day's play once play has been abandoned due to a HSRI rating of 11 or more on the grounds of player safety.

PLAYER HEALTH AND WELFARE - UMPIRE'S DISCRETION

Umpires can immediately suspend play, or not allow play to start or to recommence, if they consider conditions dangerous or unreasonable.

Umpires have sole discretion to abandon play if they consider continuing play during prolonged or excessive heat would be dangerous to the health and welfare of participants

ADVANCE CANCELLATION OF AN ENTIRE DAY'S PLAY

The Match Committee has the authority to cancel a day's play if the forecast HSRI is 11 or more on the day prior to scheduled play.

The Match Committee also has the authority to reschedule start of play to an earlier time to maximise opportunity for play during a cooler time of day and will seek to provide clubs with ample advance notice that an amendment to playing time may be imminent.

4. ADDITIONAL DRINKS INTERVALS AND EXTENDED INTERVALS

Prior to the commencement of play, the umpires and captains shall conduct a heat safety briefing –

- a) to determine increasing the number and duration of drinks intervals and allowing players and umpires to leave the field of play during drinks intervals; and
- b) to determine whether to extend the duration of lunch and/or afternoon tea intervals.

5. LIGHTNING

Play shall cease immediately in the event that a lightning flash is followed by thunder less than 40 seconds later. Play shall not resume until 30 minutes after the last lightning flash.

Immediately following the suspension of play, persons may only enter the field of play in order to lay pitch covers.

However, no person may remain on, or enter, the field of play in the event a lighting flash is followed by thunder less than 30 seconds later and shall remain off the field of play for the duration of the period that play is suspended under this playing condition. Any person who breaches this playing condition breaches the code of conduct and the umpires shall report such person/s to the Governing Body.

6. AIR QUALITY

Current air quality status can be monitored at NSW Government Air Quality Concentration

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

Umpires may, in consultation with all participants, cease or abandon play in the event of air quality deterioration.