

The SDNA weather policy has been adopted in accordance with the guidelines set down by Netball Victoria.

Netball is traditionally a winter, outdoor sport and SDNA's preference is to NOT cancel games.

However, SDNA has a duty of care to protect the health, safety, and wellbeing of all participants, during extreme weather. When there is a risk of exertional heat illness, severe rainfall, or dangerous weather, SDNA is committed to acting in the best interest of all participants by implementing the following mitigation strategies.

Courts or conditions are deemed to be unsafe by the SDNA (Committee, Competition Supervisor, Umpire Manager and Umpire Supervisors), and they will make the decision to cancel matches.

1. EXTREME HEAT

In the case of extreme heat, prior to each match commencing, readings will be recorded from Bureau of Meteorology – Moorabbin Airport station and the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) Chart will be consulted to incorporate the humidity and determine the relative temperature.

If the WBGT reaches:

- 32°C - Quarters will be reduced by 1 minute and a 30 second drink break will be incorporated at ¼ time and ¾ time.
- 38°C - Current matches will be cancelled until the WBGT temperature reduces.

Preventative measures can be undertaken to minimise heat injuries.

- Examples include the provision of appropriate sun protective hats, appropriate sunscreen, spray bottles and drinking water.
- Players should hydrate 24 hours in advance of their scheduled match time.

2. WET WEATHER

Netball is traditionally a winter, outdoor sport and SDNA therefore will play if there is rain. If the rain or the residual water on the courts is deemed to be too heavy or dangerous, the match may be delayed, postponed, or cancelled.

3. LIGHTNING

In Australia, statistics show that lightning accounts for 5-10 deaths and 100+ injuries annually and that approximately 25% of people killed by lightning are playing sport. Should thunderstorms present on match day, SDNA will adopt the "30-30" rule to determine whether a game should be cancelled or suspended.

- When lightning is sighted, count the seconds until thunder is heard
- If that time is more than 30 seconds, remain vigilant and observant
- If that time is 30 seconds or less, the thunderstorm is within 10km and is dangerous and all activity is to cease immediately
- Activities may not be resumed until 30 minutes after the last detection of thunder or lightning

4. SDNA GUIDELINES

- Matches will be cancelled in the event of HEAVY rain, hail and/or lightning.
- Games will not be cancelled because it is cold.
- The decisions to cancel matches in advance are done with as much knowledge, information and notice as possible.
- The decisions to cancel matches on competition days are made round by round.
- Match cancellations will not be based on player/umpire/spectators' comfort – only safety.
- If players/coaches wish to forfeit their match they are free to do so. If both teams agree, no points will be given. If only one team wishes to forfeit, then the other team will receive the points for the game.
- If parents do not want their children to play for whatever reason, they have the option to remove their child.

At no stage will the spectators, parents, players or team officials approach the Court or Umpire Supervisors regarding the weather. An announcement will be made by the Court Supervisor over the PA system and, if possible, a communication will be posted on the SDNA website and social media channels.

When playing any sport, you are voluntarily exposing yourself to a variety of risks for the sake of fun. YOU must decide whether the risks you choose to take are ACCEPTABLE risks for you/your child.

Please do not question SDNA's legal and moral responsibilities OR our "insurance cover". SDNA's decision will always be a balance between the enthusiasm of players who generally want to play and their health and safety, which is paramount.

AWARDING POINTS

Please note that unless the cancellation of matches is communicated to clubs / teams directly, posted in the news feed on SDNA's website or posted on SDNA's social media channels, all teams are expected to report to the courts for their scheduled matches. Teams are required to have 5 players sighted by their match appointed umpires and recorded on the scoresheet.

- If a match is cancelled prior to the ½ time siren, each team will be awarded 2 points.
- If a match is cancelled after the ½ time siren, then the current score will stand.

POLICY REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed annually by SDNA