AIC EXTREME WEATHER POLICY

VERSION 1.0
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Reviewed: AIC Management Committee

EXTREME WEATHER POLICY

1. BACKGROUND

The Associated Independent Colleges (AIC) prioritises the health, safety and wellbeing of its players, officials, and spectators. An identified risk to participation in sporting activities is extreme weather. In the Queensland environment, the most likely extreme weather occurrences that will have an impact on the Associations competitions are: Extreme Heat, Thunderstorms, Rain Events and Air Quality Extremes.

This policy outlines the AIC's procedure in the event of extreme weather. All Colleges commit to this policy to assist in reducing the risk of harm to players, officials and spectators during AIC sporting events.

2. DECISIONS ON FIXTURES

i) AIC venues are located across a large area of Brisbane and Ipswich. It is expected that conditions at one venue may be different to those at another venue.

ii) In the majority of occurrences, the implementation of this policy will be venue specific, based on conditions at the location of the fixture. This decision will be made by the host College.

iii) In extreme cases, where there is clear guidance in advance from government agencies including the Bureau of Meteorology of a significant weather event, a whole of Association decision may be made by the Management Committee prior to an event or fixture round.

3. EXTREME HEAT

3.1 Sports Medicine Australia outlines the assessment of heat stress risk requires the combination of temperature (measured in the shade) and humidity.

3.2 To calculate the Heat Stress Risk data, each AIC Outdoor Venue will utilise the Bureau of Meteorology Live Data for the suburb the venue is located in.

3.3 Sports Medicine Australia Sport Risk Classification Tables are to be used for calculation of Heat Stress Risk (see Appendix 1). Sports played within the Association are classified:

SPORT MEDICINE AUSTRALIA SPORT RISK CLASSIFICATION		
LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4
Field Events- T & F Golf	Australian Football Basketball Football Tennis Touch Football Volleyball Long Distance Running (Cross country)	Cricket Rugby Union Rugby League

3.4 Consideration to suspending or cancelling the event/fixture will be made if the Heat Stress risk is calculated as 'High' or 'Extreme'.

3.5 A number of mechanisms will be implemented to reduce the risk of extreme heat to participants during fixtures. These mechanisms will be implemented if the forecasted Heat Stress Index is "Moderate" or calculated as "Moderate" during an event. These include:

i) Promotion of appropriate hydration methods in the days leading up to a fixture or championship when extreme heat is forecasted.

ii) Decrease the length of the fixture.

iii) Increase the number of, and also length of, breaks during the fixture.

iv) Changing the time of the commencement of the fixture or event.

v) Increase the availability of shade for participants when not participating directly in the fixture.

vi) Have active cooling mechanisms available during the fixture including:

- Iced water readily available

- Water spray bottles to be used

- Ice packs available for use

3.5 Where possible, in the design of College sporting apparel, Colleges will work with the clothing manufacturer to ensure appropriate materials are used including those that are light weight and breathable.

4. THUNDERSTORMS

4.1 The definition of a thunderstorm is where lightning can be seen and/or thunder can be heard. Any storm which produces thunder means lightning is always present, even if obscured by cloud (it is the lightning which produces the thunder).

4.2 When a lightning strike is within 10km of a venue, venue officials must suspend play and ensure all players, officials, school staff and spectators are removed to a safe place.

4.3 As a universally recognised guide to identify a thunderstorm to be within 10km of a venue, the "30/30 Lightning Safety Guideline" will be followed at all AIC Fixtures and Championships. This guideline states:

i) Play will be stopped immediately if the time between seeing a lightning flash and hearing thunder is less than 30 seconds. All players, officials and spectators will be instructed and required to seek appropriate shelter.

ii) Play will not resume until at least 30 minutes has passed since the last thunder was heard.

5. EXTREME RAIN EVENT

5.1 An extreme rain event may include a sustained period of rain over a number of days or an intense rain period over a very short amount of time.

5.2 A significant risk of an extreme rain event is that of flooding or 'flash flooding'.

5.3 Flooding or significant surface water on playing surfaces and surrounds have the potential to create dangerous conditions for players, officials and spectators.

5.4 Officials may suspend or cancel fixtures or events if the there is an unacceptable risk to participating. This may include in the surrounds to a venue and the accessing of that venue.

6. AIR QUALITY (INCLUDING SMOKE HAZE)

6.1 Air quality that is compromised presents a risk to players, officials and spectators, especially if they have a pre existing medical condition. Major contributors to diminished air quality include Smoke or Smoke Haze, Sand and Dust.

6.2 Current air quality of a venue will be calculated by referring to the Queensland Department of Environment and Science "Live Air Data" (Live air data | Environment, land and water | Queensland Government (des.qld.gov.au)). The closest recording site to the host venue will be used.

6.3 An AIC outdoor event will be suspended or cancelled if a "Extremely Poor" Air quality rating is recorded.

6.4 Participants with pre-existing medical conditions will be monitored if air quality is Poor or Very Poor.

7. ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND SUPPORTING RESOURCES

This policy has been created in consultation with the policies of Sports Medicine Australian and the respective state and national sporting organisations policies. Further resources can be accessed through the following links.

Sport Medicine Australia – Extreme Heat Policy

Appendix 1- Extreme Heat Risk Classification Tables