



Managing Ground Weather and Light Issues

1. Laws of Cricket:

- **Law 2.8.2:** “The Umpires shall immediately suspend play, or not allow play to start or to recommence, if **either umpire** considers that the conditions of ground, weather or light, or any other circumstances are either **dangerous or unreasonable.**”
- **Law 2.7.1:** “Conditions shall **not** be regarded as either **dangerous or unreasonable** merely **because** they are **not ideal.**”
- **Law 2.7.2:** “Conditions shall be regarded as **dangerous** if there is **actual and foreseeable risk** to the **safety** of any player or umpire.”
- **Law 2.7.3:** “Conditions shall be regarded as **unreasonable** if, although posing no risk to safety, it would **not be sensible for play to proceed.**”
- **Law 2.8.3:** “When there is a suspension of play it is the **responsibility of the umpires to monitor conditions.** They shall make inspections as often as appropriate, **unaccompanied by any players or officials.**”

2. Wet weather:

- **Law 2.7.1:** “The fact that the grass and the ball are wet does **not** warrant the ground conditions being regarded as **unreasonable or dangerous.**”
- **Law 2.7.4:** “If the umpires consider the ground is so wet or slippery as to **deprive the bowler of a reasonable foothold, the fielders of the power of free movement, or the batsmen of the ability to play their strokes or to run between the wickets,** then **these conditions** shall be regarded as so bad that it would be **dangerous and unreasonable** for play to take place.”
- Play should not proceed if there is any surface water on the ground or if water comes to the surface when the ground is walked on.
- Play should not commence hoping that such wet ground will dry out as the match proceeds.
- Play should not proceed if the pitch is unaffected, but the outfield is wet.
- Sun and wind are the two weather conditions needed for wet grounds to dry.

3. Extreme heat:

- See [Greater Illawarra Cricket Zone Extreme Heat Policy \(2022\)](#).
- The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) to be the official App for sourcing temperature data.
- The “feels like” temperature (considering wind and humidity) to be the official temperature measurement.
- Where extreme heat is forecast, the umpires and captains to conduct a heat safety briefing before play to consider:
 - increasing the number and duration of drinks intervals.
 - extending the interval between innings.
- Cessation of play (Senior cricket):
 - Level 1 – Additional drinks intervals if “feels like” temperature exceeds 37 degrees Celsius.
Drinks interval to be of 10 minutes’ duration during which time players and umpires may leave the field of play.
 - Level 2 – Play to be suspended immediately if “feels like” temperature, at the location, exceeds 40 degrees Celsius.
 - Resumption of play – Play shall resume if “feels like” temperature drops to 37 degrees Celsius.
 - If “feels like” temperature has not dropped to 37 degrees Celsius by 90 minutes after the suspension of play, the match to be abandoned, unless there is a forecast that conditions will improve.
- Cessation of play (Junior cricket):
 - Level 1 – Additional drinks intervals if “feels like” temperature exceeds 34 degrees Celsius.
Drinks interval to be of 10 minutes’ duration during which time players and umpires may leave the field of play.
 - Level 2 – Play to be suspended immediately if “feels like” temperature, at the location, exceeds 37 degrees Celsius.
 - Resumption of play – Play shall resume if “feels like” temperature drops to 37 degrees Celsius.
 - If “feels like” temperature has not dropped to 37 degrees Celsius by 90 minutes after the suspension of play, the match to be abandoned, unless there is forecast that conditions will improve.
- From time to time the BOM temperature may however not reflect ground conditions on the field of play. In this event, if the umpires believe the heat is extreme and unfit for play, they may suspend play.
- In doing so, they should consider any apparent signs of heat stress being displayed by any of the participants.

4. Smoke Pollution:

- See Cricket Australia Smoke Pollution Guidelines for Community Cricket.
- The “IQAir Air Visual / Air Quality” App to be used to source information about air quality levels.
- Poor air quality can affect anyone’s health and trigger medical conditions, but those exercising are particularly at risk because of the increase in air entering the airways and triggering respiratory and cardiovascular conditions.
- The key air quality measurements used in deciding if it is safe to play are:
 - Visibility measure (NEHP) – measure of the visibility reduction due to pollutants.
 - Particle matter measures (PM2.5) – measure of particles so small that they can bypass protective mechanisms in the throat and nose and travel directly to the lungs.
 - Air Quality Index (AQI) – a composite measure of various pollutants.
- Cricket Australia Air Quality Guidelines:
 - 0-33: Very good → enjoy activities.
 - 34-66: Good → enjoy activities.
 - 67-99: Fair → some concerns for those with respiratory conditions.
 - 100-149: Very poor → dangerous for those with respiratory conditions.
 - 150+: Hazardous → exposure should be minimised for everyone.
- The safety of player and officials is the number one priority, and a conservative approach should be taken when deciding if it is safe to play.
- Key considerations when determining if it is safe to play:
 - It is hazardous when the Air Quality measure is over 150.
 - Where visibility is poor, air quality will be poor and, there may also be a significant light issue.
 - Any apparent signs of respiratory distress being displayed by any of the participants should be considered.

5. General considerations:

- The key guideline in determining whether it is dangerous to play is the “actual and foreseeable risk to the safety” of the participants (**Law 2.7.2**).
- The importance of the match or getting a result should not be considerations when determining fitness of play.
- If possible, every effort should be made to ensure that play is possible.
- Where playing time is lost, any additional time available for the match should be used first.
- Thereafter, the minimum quota of overs to be bowled should be reduced according to the amount of playing time lost.