

Overview

The purpose of this policy is to protect the health of those participating in Victorian Premier Cricket matches from the potentially ill effects of extreme weather, while ensuring that play is not unnecessarily interrupted

Scope

This policy applies to all matches in Victorian Premier Cricket competitions.

Policy

If there is an adverse weather forecast (wet weather or extreme heat) for a scheduled Match:

In Advance

- By monitoring the Bureau of Meteorology 7-day temperature forecasts and seeking to maximise opportunities for play during times of extreme heat, CV Management has the power to reschedule the start of play to 10.00am in any match, to maximise the opportunity for play during a cooler time of the day.
- CV Management may also consider a full or partial cancellation (3rd & 4th XIs only) of fixtured matches and where possible will seek necessary guidance from the Bureau of Meteorology and/or qualified practitioners.
- CV Management will provide affected clubs with prior notice of any amendment to the playing time or potential cancellation. Clubs will be notified via email to the Administration Managers, the Premier Cricket website and via the Premier Cricket social media channels.

Match Day Morning

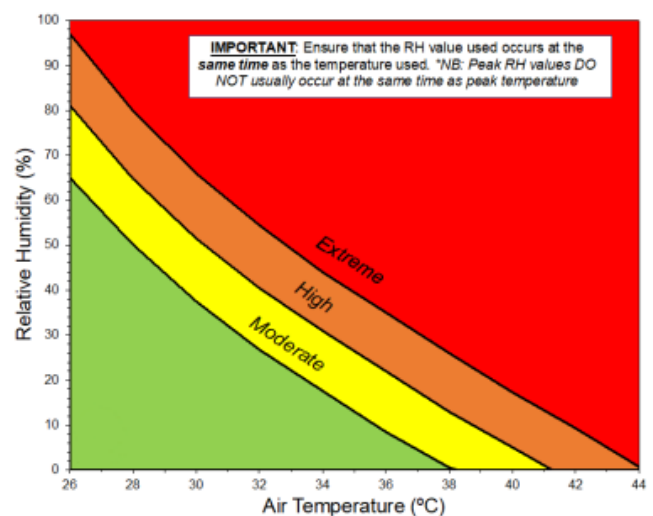
- CV Management will consult once ground reports and all available forecast data has been collated. CV Management's decision will be communicated via email, text message to Administration Managers, the Premier Cricket website and Premier Cricket social media channels.

Match Day

- If the CV Management decision is "report to grounds", decisions regarding play will be determined by the Umpires in accordance with this policy.

EXTREME HEAT

The Sport Medicine Australia (SMA) Extreme Heat Policy Tool (<https://sma-heat-policy.sydney.edu.au/>) is to be the standard and the measurement which is to be applied for the purposes of this policy. The SMA website displays a Heat Stress Risk based on Sports Medicine Australia's assessment for heat stress specifically for cricket (Sport Risk Classification 4) based on the current weather observations for a specific location.



The SMA website will display the current Heat Stress Risk rating as well as providing a forecast for the remainder of the day. There are four Heat Stress Risk levels:

- Low (Green)
- Moderate (Yellow)
- High (Orange)
- Extreme (Red)

Additional drinks breaks and extended intervals

- Prior to the commencement of play for days with a predicted Heat Stress Risk of Moderate (Yellow), the Umpires and captains shall conduct a heat safety briefing to determine whether to increase the number of drinks breaks.
- Prior to the commencement of play for days with a predicted Heat Stress Risk of High (Orange) and Extreme (Red), the Umpires and captains shall conduct a heat safety briefing to determine the number and duration of drinks intervals, unrestricted drinks around the boundary for

bowlers and at the fall of a wicket, allowing Players and Umpires to leave the field of play during drinks breaks, and to determine whether to extend the duration of lunch and/or afternoon tea intervals. Additionally, Penalty Time for bowlers and batters will be discounted by 50% for any player who leaves the field to avoid or manage heat-related illness or injury.

Cessation, resumption and abandonment of play

It shall be the responsibility of each Club Administration Manager (or their nominee) to monitor, on a half-hourly basis, the SMA Extreme Heat Policy Tool (<https://sma-heat-policy.sydney.edu.au/>). The suburb in which the match is being played should be used as the location to check the current rating.

- a) Suspension of Play: In the event of the Heat Stress Scale reaching the ‘Extreme’ level, the Umpires shall immediately suspend play.
- b) Resumption of Play: Following the suspension of play in (a) above, play shall not resume for a minimum of 30 minutes. If following the minimum 30-minute suspension, the Heat Stress Scale decreases to the level of ‘High’ or lower, play may recommence.
- c) Abandonment of Play: The Umpires, in consultation with the captains, may abandon the day’s play immediately following a suspension, if the SMA Extreme Heat Policy Tool forecasted risk does not show a fall in the Heat Stress Scale from Extreme to High Level (or lower) by the scheduled close of play. In other words, there may be no requirement to wait until the close of play before a decision is made to abandon the day’s play.

If the SMA Extreme Heat Policy Tool is not accessible, the following table, along with should be used with current recordings from the Bureau of Meteorology at the ground location are to be used. If the air temperature and relative humidity are equal to those identified in the table below, then conditions are deemed to have reached the ‘Extreme’ level and play must be immediately suspended as in (a) above.

Air Temperature	&	Relative Humidity
32	&	≥ 55
32.5	&	≥ 52
33	&	≥ 49
33.5	&	≥ 47
34	&	≥ 44
34.5	&	≥ 42
35	&	≥ 40
35.5	&	≥ 38
36	&	≥ 35
36.5	&	≥ 33

Air Temperature	&	Relative Humidity
37	&	≥ 31
37.5	&	≥ 28
38	&	≥ 26
38.5	&	≥ 24
39	&	≥ 22
39.5	&	≥ 20
40	&	≥ 18
40.5	&	≥ 16
41	&	≥ 14
41.5	&	≥ 12

There shall be no discretion to allow a resumption of that day’s play once play has been abandoned due to extreme heat.

Player and Umpire Health and Welfare

Notwithstanding the above, the Umpires shall have the sole discretion to abandon play if they consider that, to continue play during prolonged or excessive heat, it would be dangerous to the health and welfare of any, or all, of the participants. To assist the Umpires in exercising their discretion, they may –

- a) consider any apparent signs of heat stress being displayed by any of the participants; and
- b) refer to an air temperature thermometer, if properly installed in the shade at the match venue.

No person is forced by CV to participate in any Match and Clubs shall place no pressure on any participant if they consider withdrawing from any part of a Match for health reasons.

LIGHTNING

In the event of a thunderstorm, the ‘30/30 rule’ should be used to determine whether play should be suspended and when it is safe to resume.

Sound travels at a speed of around 1km every 3 seconds. When lightning is sighted, count the seconds between the

flash of lightning and the sound of the thunder. If the time between flash and bang is less than 30 seconds, this means the storm is within 10km and is therefore close enough to be dangerous.

Umpires are to follow the following protocol where thunderstorms and lightning are present during play:

(a) If thunder follows a lightning flash by between 30 - 40 seconds, play must cease immediately. Players and Umpires must leave the field but may cover the wicket and make necessary preparations for the thunderstorm.

(b) If thunder follows a lightning flash within 30 seconds, then play must be suspended, Players and Umpires must leave the field immediately and must not return for a minimum of 30 minutes after the suspension commences.

(c) Umpires are to monitor lighting / thunder patterns for a minimum of 30 minutes after play has been suspended, and only once a 30-minute period has passed without thunder/lightning, or the time between the lightning and thunder is more than 40 seconds, then play can resume.

(d) Umpires will reinspect as often as appropriate and shall advise both captains of resumption times when agreed upon.

PREMIER CRICKET EXTREME CONDITIONS GUIDELINES

Premier Rule 13 provides the prime guidance for the management of conditions during Premier Cricket Matches. While Rule 13 is generally considered to relate to the fitness of the ground, weather and light for play to continue, it equally applies to extremes of conditions such as heat, cold, wind and lightning which may make continuation of play dangerous.

Rule 13 charges the Umpires with the responsibility to manage conditions and as such they are the final arbiters as to the fitness of conditions to allow play to continue.

When a period of extreme temperature is forecast, the following issues need to be considered by all participants when dealing with the heat:

- the conditions at each venue are to be assessed on a case-by-case basis;
- Umpires and Clubs are encouraged to 'manage' the availability of the extra 30 minutes of playing time available;

- where possible, unrestricted interchange of substitute fielders shall be permitted; and
- Umpires are to ensure that all time delays associated with implementing heat mitigation measures are recorded as allowances when calculating over rates for the purpose of determining penalty overs (i.e. "On-Field Delays Allowance" is to be adjusted accordingly).

Umpires are required to do all things within their power to facilitate play without compromising their responsibility in respect to "duty of care". They are therefore required to balance all the factors and decide whether the conditions are fit for play and, if not satisfied that they are safe, suspend play until such time as they are. Any such decision by the Umpires in relation to extremes of temperature would be supported should it occur.

Policy Statement

All persons named in this policy are required to comply with this policy, including any amendments made from time to time to ensure that business needs are met. Any changes will be communicated as far in advance as possible of the change being made.

Policy Implementation

Policy effective date: 1 August 2024

Policy review due: 31 April 2025

Responsible department: Premier Cricket

Policy approved by: Cricket Victoria Board

