

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY & PROCEDURE



Purpose

Eltham Panthers Netball Club (EPNC) has created this Inclement Policy & Procedure to ensure players are kept safe in inclement weather and to support the club to meet its obligations under the Child Safety Standards.

Exposure to extreme weather, particularly heat, poses a risk to sporting clubs as it may result in exertional heat illness ranging from heat cramps, heat exhaustion, heat stroke and even heat related death. Other inclement weather conditions that elevate risk include smoke haze, electrical storms/lightning or thunderstorm asthma warnings.

Inclement weather management relates to complying with Standard 9 of the [Child Safety Standards](#).

Policy Aim

To manage the risk associated with inclement or extreme weather conditions consistently throughout the EPNC. To provide parents/guardians, officials, coaches, and committee members with certainty of, and consistency in, the club's approach to inclement or extreme weather conditions.

Scope

This Policy and Procedure has been developed for use by the Committee of EPNC and for the reference of its members. This applies to EPNC training days only. On game day, decisions around suitability of weather conditions are made by the governing association, Maningham Netball.

Policy Position

Smoke Haze

- In the event of smoke haze affecting the training venue. Correspondence be sent out via social and WhatsApp channels to identify the risk, ask players to consider their personal and medical circumstances (such as asthma management plans) and be encouraged to make a decision about their attendance based on their own medical risks.

Thunderstorm Asthma

- In the event of a thunderstorm asthma event affecting the training venue. Correspondence be sent out via social and WhatsApp channels to identify the risk, ask players to consider their personal and medical circumstances (such as asthma management plans) and be encouraged to make a decision about their attendance based on their own medical risks.
- For extreme thunderstorm asthma warnings, as advised by the BOM, training will be cancelled.

Lightning or Rain

- In the event of lightning, training will be cancelled, or ceased if already commenced, and all members will be advised to return home safely.
- In the case of rain, EPNC will use their discretion in determining when the playing surface is too wet for training to continue safely and cease or cancel training if required.

Extreme Heat

- For temperatures **below 26 degrees, training will proceed as usual.**
- For temperatures **26-30 degrees**, there is a moderate risk of heat illness. When this temperature prevails, the **recommended response is for moderate training, a reduction in intensity and duration of training, regular hydration, and more breaks are required.**
- For temperatures **31-35 degrees**, there is a high to very high risk of heat illness. Training at this temperature is uncomfortable for most people. **The recommended response is to limit intensity (i.e., skills based work only), take more breaks in shaded areas, hydrate regularly, and limit duration to 45 minutes per session.**
- **For temperatures 36 degrees and above**, the risk of heat illness is extreme. It is considered that playing or training in heat of this level is very stressful for most people. **The recommended response is cancellation.**
- In the special instance of BOM reporting very high humidity, EPNC should also refer to the WBGT or **Wet Bulb Globe Temperature** which is a different scale to use where humidity is very high. **In the case of very high humidity, any temperature above 30 degrees is considered extreme, and it is recommended to postpone or cancel training.**

Responsibilities

The EPNC Committee is responsible for managing, applying and reviewing the Inclement Weather Policy to ensure the Club meets its obligations under Child Safety Standards.

Process

Inclement Weather Management Process	Responsible	Accountable
1. Prior to training, the club president will review the weather forecast using a government support site, such as www.bom.gov.au	President	President
2. If inclement weather is predicted, the President to decide whether training will proceed according to the policy criteria.	President	President
3. In the event that training is cancelled, modifications are made to training or communication to members is required to enable personal medical plans to be enacted due to inclement weather, this decision is to be communicated via WhatsApp message to Team Managers to then be forwarded on to parent contacts, email from the club email address and notification via social media channels.	President/Social Media Manager/Team Managers	President
4. The following details be included in communication from the club regarding cancellation or modification of game/training or enactment of personal medical management plans due to inclement weather: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The type of inclement weather. ● How the inclement weather meets the criteria in the policy. ● Reference to policy on website for further information. ● Any personal action that may be required by members, in line with the policy. 	President	President

Authorities

Sports Medicine Australia <https://sma.org.au/>

Vic Sport (Government) <https://www.vicsport.com.au/>

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