



**CREATING HISTORY.
INSPIRING CHAMPIONS.**

WACA AFFILIATES EXTREME EVENT GUIDELINES



WACA
WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
CRICKET ASSOCIATION

INTRODUCTION

Why are these guidelines important?

WA Cricket is made up of many different affiliates, associations and clubs that participate in many different competitions across the state. To this end, there is varied governance and leadership structures as well as competition rules and policies that make up the cricket ecosystem across WA. In addition to this the WA Cricket Association (WACA) also runs a range of programs and competitions directly to the community where required.

As such, decision making in relation to cricket programs and competitions is left to the body that has custodianship of each respective cricket jurisdiction and/or competition.

However, from time to time there may be a need for a more centralised decision-making process to be instigated in response to extreme events that have a much broader and far reaching impact than just cricket.

It is vital that the leaders of the game work together and have a common goal that ensures the safety of players, officials and all involved with cricket across the state are central to decision making at all times. This is especially important where junior players are concerned. All Children and Young People have the right to feel safe and take part in cricket in a safe, positive, and enjoyable environment. As such those who are the custodians of the game must make informed decisions that ensure young players are never put at risk.

Between the period December 2019 and February 2021, there were three unprecedented events that required a collective approach to decision making on behalf of the cricket community, leading to the cancellation of matches and other related cricket activity. These were as follows:

- December 2019 heatwave
- COVID-19 Pandemic – Cancellation of all cricket March 2020
- Second COVID-19 Lockdown and subsequent restrictions – February 2021

It is important to note that the catastrophic fire events have from time to time also impacted on cricket activities across that country. WA is not immune from similar catastrophic fire events, whereby air quality also becomes a significant issue for community sport.

As the peak body for our sport in WA, the WACA has access to State Government advice that can help inform decision making around extreme events such as those outlined above. The WACA in turn consults with each of its Affiliates to arrive at a decision to be communicated to member associations and clubs. In the majority of instances, associations and clubs have followed the directive given by the WACA and their respective Affiliate. However, there are instances where this advice is deemed only as a recommendation by some and the advice has not been heeded.

These guidelines are designed to provide the WACA's Affiliates with guidance in relation to extreme events, as well as some standard tools that can be used to assess levels of risk in relation to heat, lightning and air quality.

On a week to week basis these can be applied to the specific needs and context of each Affiliate and its member associations and clubs, ultimately resulting in informed decision making for the safety and wellbeing of all involved.

However, if the State or a particular geographical area is faced with an extreme event that sees the State Government (through the Department of Health) providing a specific directive to community sport in relation to that event for the safety and wellbeing of the community then an “all of cricket” directive will in turn be made by the WACA. This will be done in consultation with WACA Affiliates, being mindful of the timeliness associated with the need to make decisions in response to advice received. This directive will then be communicated by the WACA, co-signed by the Affiliates.

In the event a member association or club chooses to go against an “all of cricket” directive then this will need to be managed by their relevant Affiliate with the collective support of the WACA and other Affiliates where required.

The following guidelines provide guidance on the following in line with Cricket Australia guidance and policies:

- Heat
- Lightening
- Air Quality.

The Affiliates of the WACA that have endorsed these guidelines are those who comprise members (Boards, Associations and clubs) who are responsible for the delivery of competitions and programs across the state:

- Community Junior Cricket Council
- CricketWest
- Country Cricket Board
- WA Female Cricket Council
- WA District Cricket Council
- Indoor Sports WA[^]
- WA Veterans Cricket Association

The WACA’s WA Education Advisory Committee will also play an important role in providing guidance and direction to education bodies that run cricket competitions. However, in most instances these bodies will already be under the direction of the Department of Education.

^It is important to note that a directive may be specific to outdoor sport only and as such will not be relevant to indoor cricket and vice versa (eg: wearing of masks indoors at all times)

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HEAT

Climatic conditions vary throughout Australia and individuals' tolerances of heat and humidity varies significantly. The WACA recommends that clubs, associations and schools apply common sense guidelines to climatic conditions that exist within their respective regions.

If an extreme heat event is forecast and the State Government, through one or more of its Department's provides a specific direction, the WACA will help to facilitate this advice as required, either across the cricket community or the particular cohort that may be impacted (for example children or seniors).

The WACA recommends the use of the Australian Cricket Community Cricket Playing in the Heat Guidelines that can be found below:

These guidelines provide Cricket organisers and participants a scientific approach in managing extreme heat conditions. The guidelines utilise the following Heat Stress Index (HSRI) Tools available through the MyCricket website and factor in the air temperature, humidity, sun radiation and wind:

- Heat Stress Rating Index for Junior Players
- Heat Stress Rating Index for Senior Community Players
- Australian Cricket Playing in the Heat Guidelines



HSRI Tool SENIOR
COMMUNITY PLAYERS



HSRI Tool JUNIOR
PLAYERS.xlsx



AC Community
Cricket Playing in th

^Note: Senior clubs have a duty of care in relation to juniors playing in senior teams and need to be conscious of their health and wellbeing regardless of the risk rating determined by the Senior Cricket Competition Heat Stress index.

Further information can also be found at Sports Medicine Australia: www.sma.org.au

Each WACA Affiliate and their respective associations and clubs should apply these guidelines to their specific competitions. However, it is recommended that the Australian Cricket HSRI Tools are used as the central measure of heat stress in Affiliates' heat policies.

Refer for Attachment One for a examples and a real time application of the Junior Cricket Heat Stress Index in season 2020/2021 and in 2019, during the extreme heat event experienced in December that have helped to inform decision making around the risk mitigation measures requires based on the risk rating provided by the index tool.

Attachment One: Sample Heat Stress Index Tool

Attachment Two: Examples and Real Time Application of The Heat Stress Index Tool

LIGHTNING

GROUND AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

Ground and weather conditions can have a significant impact on the safety and enjoyment of cricket at both junior and senior levels.

Sometimes, as is the case with weather, these conditions are somewhat unpredictable and uncontrollable. Appropriate care should be taken to avoid any weather-related injuries.

Umpires, coaches and teachers should exercise a conservative approach to continuing play in the rain, where lightning is present or where the field conditions have reached a point where they pose danger to participants.

It is important that Clubs foster good working relationships with local government authorities to encourage a pro-active approach to the maintenance and improvement of your cricket facilities.

Keep them informed in writing of any deteriorations and don't forget to thank them when upgrades and repairs have been completed.

LIGHTNING SAFETY

Lightning can occur during the Summer months in Australia, when warmer weather and the increase in energy provided by the sun can combine to create more frequent thunderstorms.

The hours of 2pm-6pm are also more likely to see thunderstorm activity than others - precisely when cricket is usually played. Despite these general trends, lightning can and does occur at all times of the year and at any time of the day or night. As such, there is a clear need for Clubs and Associations to have a well-developed lightning safety plan.

Clubs should nominate a person to be responsible for monitoring the weather before and during a match, and Associations should remind Clubs of the need to have in place appropriate arrangements for managing lightning safety. A variety of smartphone apps are available to help with accurate weather forecasts during a match.

LIGHTNING 30/30 RULE

Should thunderstorms be prevalent on match day, the 30/30 rule should be used to determine whether play should be suspended and when it is safe to resume. Thunderstorms within 10km are deemed dangerous - the 30/30 rule is used to determine the distance to the storm so match officials can make the appropriate decisions.

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. Play should then be suspended for a minimum of 30 minutes, and must not resume until 30 minutes after the last audible thunder.

The safest structure during a thunderstorm is an enclosed building such as a Clubhouse, should one be available. Alternatives are vehicles, with care taken to avoid any metal objects. Shelter should never be sought in open fields, or under trees or small open structures such as rain/picnic shelters. Metal fences, poles, clothes lines or antennas should be avoided. Metal must not be touched.

If a person is struck by lightning, immediately give first aid and call 000. Begin CPR if necessary and use an AED should one be available.

POINTS TO REMEMBER:

- Make sure your Club has a lightning safety plan.
- Monitor the weather before and during match.
- If thunderstorms occur, use the 30/30 rule to determine if the storm is less than 10km away.
- Seek shelter in pre-arranged safe location.
- Wait until 30 minutes after the storm has passed before resuming play.
- If a person is struck, give first aid and call 000. Begin CPR if necessary and use AED if available.

AIR QUALITY

Cricket Australia recommends the Victorian Cricket Smoke and Pollution Guidelines as a reference point for cricket organisations in relation to extreme smoke or pollution conditions.

<https://www.cricketvictoria.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Smoke-Pollution-Guidelines-for-Community-Cricket-v2.pdf>

Guidelines

Irrespective of specific air quality conditions on the day, competition organisers are advised to make all players and officials aware of the heightened risk to health when participating in smoke polluted conditions. In particular, prior communication ensuring those groups that are at greater risk (identified above) are encouraged to seek advice from their medical practitioner and take all preventative strategies recommended (e.g. use preventer medications for those with asthma).







When the Air Quality Index PM2.5 is 150+, recommended to suspend outdoor training, consider delaying or cancelling play.

Cricket Australia Air Quality Guidelines

The table below is adapted from the Australian Institute of Sport and NSW Public Health Unit recommendations and can be used as a guide on how to interpret the impact of air quality measures on elite (professional) and community (including Premier Cricket) cricket.

Elite Cricket		Community Cricket	
Air quality measure	Action	Air quality measure	Action
VERY GOOD (0-33)	Enjoy activities	VERY GOOD (0-33)	Enjoy activities
GOOD (34-66)	Enjoy activities	GOOD (34-66)	Enjoy activities
FAIR (67-99)	People unusually sensitive to air pollution: Plan strenuous outdoor activities when air quality is better	FAIR (67-99)	Asthmatic athletes: Should have medical review prior to performing high intensity extended training outdoors
POOR (100-149)	AIR POLLUTION HEALTH ALERT Sensitive groups: Avoid strenuous outdoor activities Everyone: Cut back or reschedule strenuous outdoor activities	VERY POOR (100-149)	AIR POLLUTION HEALTH ALERT Asthmatics or symptomatic non-asthmatics should not compete or train outdoors. Minimise asymptomatic athlete exposure
VERY POOR (150-200)	AIR POLLUTION HEALTH ALERT Sensitive groups: Avoid strenuous outdoor activities Everyone: Cut back or reschedule strenuous outdoor activities	HAZARDOUS (150+)	AIR POLLUTION HEALTH ALERT Outdoor training should be rescheduled indoors, and exposure should be minimised for everyone. Serious consideration should be given to delaying or cancelling play.
HAZARDOUS (200+)	AIR POLLUTION HEALTH ALERT Sensitive groups: Avoid strenuous outdoor activities Everyone: Significantly cut back on outdoor physical activities		

SAMPLE: HEAT STRESS INDEX TOOL

ENTER meteorological conditions			HOW SUNNY IS IT?				
Air Temp	Relative Humidity	Wind					
°C	%	km·h ⁻¹					
37.0	12	12.0	Clear (4)	Partly Cloudy (3)	Mostly Cloudy (2)	Overcast (1)	Night (0)
RISK			HOW SUNNY? Enter (0-4): <input style="width: 30px; text-align: center;" type="text" value="4"/>				
6							
0-4: Play proceed as normal			WHAT MONTH IS IT (AUS ONLY)?  (0) (1) (1) (1) (1) (0)				
5-7: Extra breaks recommended							
8-10: Extended extra breaks recommended							
>10: Consider suspension of play							
			WHAT MONTH? Enter (0 or 1): <input style="width: 30px; text-align: center;" type="text" value="1"/>				
<small>*NB: This is a preliminary model, and contains some parameters with poorly defined physiological data</small>							

ATTACHMENT TWO

HEAT STRESS INDEX – EXAMPLES AND REAL TIME APPLICATION

The below figures demonstrate real time application of the Junior Players Heat Stress Rating Index in season 2020/2021 and during the extreme heat event experienced in December 2019.

Recorded figures for 9am (only info available) for every Saturday and Sunday October 2020 to January 2021

Source: BOM: <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/dwo/202010/html/IDCJDW6111.202010.shtml>

Location: Combination of Perth and Mount Lawley

Date	Rating	Date	Rating	Date	Rating
Sat 3 rd Oct	0	Sat 14 th Nov	0 (rain)	Sat 26 th Dec	3
Sun 4 th Oct	0	Sun 15 th Nov	0 (rain)	Sun 27 th Dec	2
Sat 10 th Oct	0	Sat 21 st Nov	2	Sat 2 nd Jan	3
Sun 11 th Oct	1	Sun 22 nd Nov	2	Sun 3 rd Jan	2
Sat 17 th Oct	0	Sat 28 th Nov	1	Sat 9 th Jan	6
Sun 18 th Oct	1	Sun 29 th Nov	2	Sun 10 th Jan	3
Sat 24 th Oct	1	Sat 5 th Dec	0	Sat 16 th Jan	3
Sun 25 th Oct	2	Sun 6 th Dec	2	Sun 17 th Jan	3
Sat 31 st Oct	2	Sat 12 th Dec	6	Sat 23 rd Jan	4
Sun 1 st Nov	0 (rain)	Sun 13 th Dec	2	Sun 24 th Jan	3
Sat 7 th Nov	2	Sat 19 th Dec	3	Sat 30 th Jan	3
Sun 8 th Nov	3	Sun 20 th Dec	3	Sun 31 st Jan	4

Location Comparisons: One location chosen for each CJCC Association

Time	CJCA: Perth	SEMJCC: Willetton	SWMJCA: Cockburn	MGJCA: Kalamunda	NWMCA: Joondalup	Peel JCA: Baldivis
Sat 30 th 8am	2	2	2	2	2	2
Sat 30 th 11am	4	4	4	4	4	4
Sun 31 st 8am	3	3	3	2	3	3
Sun 31 st 11am	5	5	6	5	5	6

Figures forecast for Saturday 30th January 2021 and Sunday 31st January 2021 in Perth: Shows escalation in rating from 8am – 11am

Time	Temperature	Humidity	Wind Speed	Sun rating	HSRI Score
Saturday @ 8am	21	52	22	4	2
Saturday @ 11am	29	29	19	4	4
Sunday @ 8am	25	37	17	4	3
Sunday @ 11am	33	20	11	4	5

For comparison and reference:

Weekending of 14th and 15th December 2019. All values for 9am (only data available)

Date	Temperature	Humidity	Wind Speed	Sun Rating	HSRI	Max temp of the day
Wed 11 th Dec 19	26.5	34	15	4	3	37.6
Thu 12 th Dec 19	28.5	32	11	4	4	39.0
Fri 13 th Dec 19	32.9	16	19	4	5	40.1
Sat 14 th Dec 19	33.9	18	13	4	5	41.0
Sun 15 th Dec 19	33.4	19	13	4	5	40.9