



# Bowls Queensland Extreme Weather Policy

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Bowls Queensland (BQ) is the peak body for the sport of lawn bowls in Queensland. It was formed in 2004 following the full unification of the Royal Queensland Bowls Association and the Queensland Ladies Bowls Association.

Bowls Queensland is managed by a board elected by the membership. It is the board's responsibility to set policies for the management of the sport in Queensland.

This Policy was reviewed and reformatted in January 2026 to align with the Bowls Australia Policy.

It was endorsed by the Board on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

## 1. Member Safety.

Bowls Queensland has a responsibility to ensure that best practices are adhered to in the interests of its members health and wellbeing. BQ is concerned that its members participation in the game of bowls is conducted in the safest environment possible and with minimum risk.

Under the Laws of the Sport, the decision to suspend or discontinue play because of adverse weather or climatic conditions is at the discretion of the Controlling Body. This BQ Weather Policy applies to events where BQ is the Controlling Body. Other Controlling Bodies may wish to also adopt this policy for their competitions and events. BQ has provided the following guidelines in assisting the controlling body in making that decision.

## 2. Player Recommendations.

Participants are reminded and encouraged to take proactive steps to ensure they are well prepared to participate in conditions that may cause stress.

Participants should:

- Ensure they are well hydrated (non-alcoholic) prior to and during the game.
- Monitor their level of hydration
- Wear protective clothing where possible, this includes in the hot and cold conditions.
- Do not participate in extreme weather conditions if you are suffering from an illness.
- Apply sun protection factor 50+ sunscreen.
- Notify the controlling body/staff if you are feeling unwell during competition.

## 3. Extreme Weather.

Extreme weather is defined as weather that threatens the immediate safety of all participants, because of elements such as rain, hail, lightning, wind or heat.

The below risks have been determined with reference to Sports Medicine Australia Guidelines (Sport Medicine Australia Extreme Heat Policy v1.0 February 2021) along with the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM). Weather readings shall be taken from the closest BOM location to the event, or by taking local readings where the Controlling Body reasonably believes localised conditions may significantly differ, in which case those readings shall be used for the implementation of the policy. The following BOM link provides relevant data.

<https://www.bom.gov.au/products/IDQ65214.shtml>

## 4. Guidelines.

- Each club and or controlling body should ensure where elderly and under 18's persons are participating; due care is taken in extreme weather conditions.
- Each club should have in place evacuation and emergency policies and procedures.
- Each club/controlling body should provide a contact phone number that players and officials can ring if they are in doubt as to the state of play on any given day.
- BQ advises where possible, clubs/controlling body should usually continue play or competition where they are able to do so however, player and official's safety will remain the paramount consideration.
- The controlling body should suspend play/competition for up to 2 hours if the adverse weather conditions may improve. Where conditions have not improved in that time, the controlling body should cancel the play/competition for that day and reschedule.
- The controlling body may approve rescheduling play/competition to another day or weekend if the controlling body determines that conditions are unsafe for players, officials or spectators. Typical reasons for this include consistent heavy rain, slippery conditions, extreme heat or cold, snow, bad light and lightning.
- If play/competition is to be cancelled and rescheduled, the controlling body will use their best endeavours to notify participants. The controlling body will determine the most appropriate method of communication and might consider community radio, newsletter, phone calls or emails.

- Each club/controlling body should have its own policy as to refunding any fees to those participants who are unable to play/complete at the rescheduled time when the play/competition is cancelled due to adverse weather.

#### 5. Hot Weather.

Play must cease when any of the following thresholds are breached and cannot recommence until they are back within tolerance. The Controlling Body under this policy has an overriding discretion to pause the recommencement of play should they not be satisfied that conditions are safe to resume.

The following thresholds are based on the Sports Medicine Australia Extreme Heat Policy that rates Bowls as a Classification 2 Sport. The following link provides relevant data.

<https://sma-heat-policy.sydney.edu.au/>

Category	Ambient Temperature	WBGT	Apparent (Wind Chill)	Relative Humidity	Recommended Action
Open Age Events	38°	32°	2°	70%	Suspend Play
Senior Events (60+)	38°	32°	2°	70%	Suspend Play
Para Events	36°	32°	2°	70%	Suspend Play
Under 18 Events	38°	32°	2°	70%	Suspend Play

- Where competition matches are played in fully enclosed complexes, the ambient temperature should be assessed from inside and not the outside temperatures.
- Where competition matches are played in a semi-enclosed complex, the ambient temperature should be taken in the shade under the shade structure and not in direct sunlight.
- Where competition matches are played on outdoor synthetic surfaces and are known to increase in temperature, the ambient temperature should be taken from the on top of the synthetic surface at a height approximately 1m above ground level.

The controlling body must take serious considerations upon a complaint and request from a player or players playing in the play/competition about the playing conditions as set out above at the time that the request is made.

#### 6. Wet or Cold Weather.

If the ground is slippery from frost, snow, rain or mud or if the temperature drops below 2 °C it is at the discretion of the controlling body whether to discontinue play. In making the decision account should be taken of all relevant factors including the age and health of players and officials, the weather conditions and climate for that part of the country, the wind-chill factor, the evacuation and emergency plans for the club and venue and the amount of shelter available at the venue.

- If it is raining heavily and Puddling Occurs on the Greens, play should be discontinued until the Puddling has rescinded. If it continues to rain heavily during that time, it is recommended that play/competition be discontinued. The time may vary from venue to venue depending upon the playing surface, the shelter available etc. It is at the discretion of the controlling body to determine whether to discontinue play.
- In parts of Queensland susceptible to cold and wet weather, it is recommended that clubs/controlling body have warm clothes and a waterproof jacket as part of their uniform.
- When severe weather is forecast, the controlling body should initiate procedures and monitor weather reports. They may contact local and State agencies for input on weather and road conditions. They should review such things as the present weather conditions and the traffic conditions within the immediate area as well as outlying roads upon which players and officials are arriving. Based on this information, the controlling body will decide whether to cancel play/competition.
- Where available, shelter should be offered for players and officials not involved in current play.

7. Lightning.

The Controlling Body needs to actively monitor for the risk of lightning.

The controlling body will monitor the BOM for updates on the lightning patterns and forecast in the immediate area. A key application that can be used in conjunction with BOM is “My Lightning Tracker” which can be downloaded to any smart device.

If lightning is present the following shall apply:

- If the time between the lightning flash and the thunder sound is less than 30 seconds, then play should be suspended and not resume until 20 minutes after the last thunder sound is heard within 30 seconds of the lightning flash (30 seconds relates to 10 kilometres away).
- The Controlling Body must instruct participants to move inside the club house or find safe and suitable shelter until the storm passes.
- If lightning continues and it's not possible to finish the uncompleted matches, the Controlling Body will cancel the days play and make a ruling on the outcome of any unfinished matches which align with the events conditions of play.

