

SEVERE WEATHER GUIDELINES

The safety of players, caddies, volunteers, officials and followers (people) in any competitions or events organised by WGC is of paramount importance. Please ensure you have read and are familiar with these guidelines.

As indicated in the document, decisions such as amendments, postponements or cancellations of play due to wet weather, lightning, wind, heat etc. will only be taken should it be considered in the reasonable opinion of WGC, based on information reasonably available to it that the health, safety and wellbeing of people are either at risk or may become a risk during any competition or event.

The guidelines have been formulated on the basis that members, guests and visitors (invited or golfers playing on days open to the public), will take all measures necessary to ensure their own safety, eg not standing under trees when there is a threat of lightning or if strong winds develop, where both these conditions could trigger falling branches, and in the case of lightning, the risk of direct strikes on individuals.

Remember that as members we all have responsibilities to ourselves. In particular when the weather is hot (and in excess of 30 degrees is regarded as hot), a sun smart approach and hydration are critical. Keeping cool, walking in shade where possible and having supplies of water and other fluids to maintain hydration are things we all need to practice. And, if it is too hot for your comfort, withdrawing from the day's play is probably the smart thing to do.

It should also be noted that if players go onto the course under severe weather conditions, outside of Pro Shop opening hours and/or playing without reporting to the Pro Shop staff, their presence on the course is not sanctioned.

Your diligence and cooperation in ensuring you maximise your own safety is appreciated.

1. INTRODUCTION

GolfWA has developed a policy on severe weather including rain, wind, cold and importantly lightning, as well as heat. GolfWA has made this available to clubs to consult or adapt and adopt as their own.

The Wanneroo Golf Club (WGC) acknowledges the lead taken by GolfWA in this important issue and has developed its own policy which is modelled directly on GolfWA's framework.

2. PURPOSE

The safety of players, caddies, volunteers, officials and followers (people) in any competitions or events WGC is responsible for is of paramount importance. This document aims to provide an overview on the treatment of severe weather conditions, either anticipated or experienced during any such competitions or events.

3. SCOPE

This procedure applies to any WGC competitions or events where there is a possible or actual risk of lightning occurring or of severe conditions that may impact the safety or well being of people. The prime focus of this procedure is on the premise that WGC competitions and events are primarily for its members. For a wider event, eg the WA Open which would be organised through GolfWA, then the GolfWA policy in relation to Severe Weather would take precedence over the WGC policy.

4. POLICY

GolfWA defines "severe weather" as anticipated or observed climatic conditions that require consideration or demand, the amendment, suspension, postponement, resumption or cancellation of play. These include but are not necessarily restricted to the following:

- high (>30C) to very high (>35C) to extremely high (>40C) temperatures and humidity
- lightning, hail, heavy rain, fog, high winds (>40kph)
- low temperatures (<5C) to very low temperatures (<0C)

WGC recognises and supports these definitions and reserves the right to amend, postpone or cancel a competition or event if anticipated weather conditions are deemed unsafe for play within 48 hours of the competition or event commencing.

The Captain, General Manager, Club Professional or Management Committee member (in the absence of the former), will monitor local weather conditions and are authorised to amend, postpone, suspend, resume or cancel play according to WGC's "Severe Weather Monitoring and Action Procedures" and direct people accordingly.

5. PROCEDURES

The following procedures reference Golf Australia's "Hot Weather Guidelines", the "Flash to Bang" method for determining levels of lightning hazard, as well as GolfWA's and WGC's experience of Western Australian weather conditions in conjunction with recommendations from Golf Australia's "Elite Competition Administration Manual".

The following tables detail what actions should be taken in preparation, or when certain weather conditions are forecast prior to or observed during a WGC competition or event.

The Golf Australia "Elite Competition Administration Manual, Section 8: Suspension a competition or event, of Play and Evacuation Plan" should act as a reference for all WGC competitions or events.

Prior to a WGC Competition or Event:

WGC, through the Captain, General Manager and/or Club Professional, or other delegated persons, will monitor weather conditions, prior to competitions or events. Decisions such as amendments, postponements or cancellations will only be taken should it be considered that the health, safety and well being of people are either at risk or may become a risk during any competition or event.

Nature of Forecast Weather	Criteria	Decision	Actions	Responsible	Communication
All	Preparation	Prepare	Undertake ongoing review of weather forecasts and if unsafe conditions appear to be evident, obtain further information from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) website and Duty Forecaster if considered necessary. Ensure periodic testing of sirens is undertaken and that First Aid facilities are in order and available.	WGC Staff & Captain	Internal
Hot	Temperature > 30C	Advise	Advise people of sun smart behaviour and the need to ensure they have steps in place to maintain hydration throughout the competition or event.	WGC Staff & Captain & Golf Professional	Email/Web, Notice Boards & Announcements
Hot	Temperature > 30C, high humidity	Advise	Advise people of core body temperature alert, emphasise keeping cool, walking in shade where possible and the need to ensure they have steps in place to maintain hydration throughout the competition or event. Apart from water supply points on the course, provide additional fluid sources as far as is practicable.	WGC Staff & Captain & Golf Professional	Email/Web, Notice Boards & Announcements
Hot	Temperature 41C-42C	Advise	Advise people of core body temperature alert, emphasise keeping cool, walking in shade where possible and the need to ensure they have steps in place to maintain hydration throughout the competition or event. Apart from water supply points on the course, provide additional fluid sources as far as is practicable. In addition, advise people of "Monitoring situation, likely amendment (eg. All day 36 holes to 18 holes AM) or possible cancellation/postponement."	WGC Staff & Captain & Golf Professional	Email/Web, Notice Boards & Announcements
Hot	Temperature >42C	Advise	Advise people of core body temperature alert, emphasise keeping cool, walking in shade where possible and the need to ensure they have steps in place to maintain hydration throughout the competition or event. Apart from water supply points on the course, provide additional fluid sources as far as is practicable. In addition, advise people of "Monitoring situation, likely cancellation/postponement with possible amendment."	WGC Staff & Captain & Golf Professional	Email/Web, Notice Boards & Announcements

Nature of Forecast Weather	Criteria	Decision	Actions	Responsible	Communication
Lightning	Playing conditions could be unsafe	Advise	Advise people of "Monitoring situation, likely amendment or possible cancellation/postponement."	WGC Staff & Captain & Golf Professional	Email/Web, Notice Boards & Announcements
Wind	Playing conditions could be unsafe	Advise	Advise people of "Monitoring situation, likely amendment or possible cancellation/postponement."	WGC Staff & Captain & Golf Professional	Email/Web, Notice Boards & Announcements
Cold	Temperature < 5C	Advise	Advise people of "Monitoring situation, likely amendment or possible cancellation/postponement."	WGC Staff & Captain & Golf Professional	Email/Web, Notice Boards & Announcements

During a WGC Competition or Event:

WGC, through the Captain and/or General Manager, or other delegated persons, will monitor weather conditions, prior to competitions or events. Decisions such as amendments, postponements or cancellations will only be taken should it be considered that the health, safety and well being of people are at risk or may be at risk.

Nature of Weather	Criteria	Decision	Actions	Responsible	Communication
All	Preparation	Advise	Review the day's weather forecasts and if unsafe conditions appear to be evident, obtain further information from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) website and Duty Forecaster if considered necessary. Test working of sirens and that First Aid facilities are in order and available. Advise people of suspend/resume/evacuate protocols and muster points (if applicable).	WGC Staff & Captain	Announcements and Notice Boards
Hot	Temperature > 30C	Advise	Advise people of sun smart behaviour and the need to ensure they have steps in place to maintain hydration throughout the competition or event. Apart from water supply points on the course, provide additional fluid sources as far as is practicable.	WGC Staff & Captain & Golf Professional	Announcements and Notice Boards
Hot	Temperature > 30C, high humidity	Advise	Advise people of sun smart behaviour and the need to ensure they have steps in place to maintain hydration throughout the competition or event. Apart from water supply points on the course, provide additional fluid sources as far as is practicable.	WGC Staff & Captain & Golf Professional	Announcements and Notice Boards
Hot	Temperature > 40C	Advise	Consider temperature trend, humidity, and time left to play, advise people of possibility of suspension of play. Apart from water supply points on the course, provide additional fluid sources as far as is practicable.	WGC Staff & Captain & Golf Professional	Siren - 1 long blast
Hot	Temperature > 42C	Suspend Non-Dangerous	Consider and if need be, suspend play. People to cease play immediately and seek shade/protection from trees etc. Apart from water supply points on the course, provide additional fluid sources as far as is practicable.	WGC Staff & Captain & Golf Professional	Siren - 1 long blast
Hot	Temperature < 40C	Resume	Resume play when temperature falls below 40C.	WGC Staff & Captain & Golf Professional	Siren - 2 long blasts
Cold	Temperature < 0C	Cancel Dangerous	Hyperthermia risk, cancel. People leave the course as quickly as possible and gather at clubhouse.	WGC Staff & Captain & Golf Professional	Siren – Series of short blasts

Nature of Weather	Criteria	Decision	Actions	Responsible	Communication
Cold	Temperature < 5C	Advise	Monitor, advise people to stay warm via clothing.	WGC Staff & Captain & Golf Professional	Announcements and Notice Boards
Lightning	Flash-Bang < 30 seconds	Cancel Dangerous	Lightning is within 10km and dangerous. People to cease play immediately and await further sirens.	WGC Staff & Captain & Golf Professional	Siren – Series of short blasts
Lightning	Flash-Bang > 30 seconds	Suspend and Resume or Cancel if becomes dangerous	Check BOM website and if need be, contact the Duty Forecaster for more detailed information. Play to resume only when lightning is out of range as advised by BOM or flash to bang > 30 seconds. If danger is likely to continue, cancel.	WGC Staff & Captain & Golf Professional	Siren - 1 long blast to suspend. Siren - 2 long blasts to resume or Series of short blasts to cancel
Rain	Green/s unplayable	Suspend Non-Dangerous	Greens unplayable due to casual water around the hole, suspend play	WGC Staff & Captain & Golf Professional	Siren - 1 long blast
Rain	Green/s playable	Resume	Resume play when greens are playable.	WGC Staff & Captain & Golf Professional	Siren - 2 long blasts
Wind	Green/s un playable	Suspend Non-Dangerous	If wind is blowing balls off the greens suspend play. People to cease play immediately and seek protection from wind as far as is practicable.	WGC Staff & Captain & Golf Professional	Siren – 1 long blast
Wind	Green/s playable	Resume	Resume when wind has subsided to playable condition.	WGC Staff & Captain & Golf Professional	Siren - 2 long blasts
Wind	Playing conditions are unsafe	Suspend Dangerous	If very high winds are blowing debris onto the course, suspend play. People to cease play immediately and seek protection from wind as far as is practicable. If danger persists, cancel.	WGC Staff & Captain & Golf Professional	Siren – 1 long blast or series of short blasts to cancel

Nature of Weather	Criteria	Decision	Actions	Responsible	Communication
Wind	Playing conditions now safe	Resume	Resume play when wind has subsided to safe conditions, consult BOM for next two hour's forecast.	WGC Staff & Captain & Golf Professional	Siren - 2 long blasts
Fog	Playing conditions are unsafe	Suspend Dangerous	If visibility is non existent or extremely poor, suspend play. People to cease play immediately.	WGC Staff & Captain & Golf Professional	Siren - 1 long blast
Fog	Playing conditions now safe	Resume	Resume play when fog has lifted.	WGC Staff & Captain & Golf Professional	Siren - 2 long blasts
Fire	Playing conditions are unsafe	Cancel Dangerous	If there is an imminent fire threat, cancel play. People to cease play immediately and evacuate the course as quickly as possible.	WGC Staff & Captain & Golf Professional	Series of short blasts
Other Danger	Event conditions are unsafe	Suspend Dangerous	If danger other than already presented above emanates suspend play. People to cease play immediately and seek protection from danger as far as is practicable.	WGC Staff & Captain & Golf Professional	Siren - 1 long blast
Other Danger	Event conditions are now safe	Resume	If the danger has passed and will not return then play may be resumed.	WGC Staff & Captain & Golf Professional	Siren – 2 long blasts
All	Prolonged Suspension	Resume	If there is sufficient time left in the competition schedule, resume as appropriate and attempt to complete competition as originally advertised. Consider amending the competition by cancelling a round, replaying a round, or cancelling the entire event with further consideration to a replay at a later date.	WGC Staff & Captain & Golf Professional	Announcements and Notice Boards

Required Reading Register - WGC Severe Weather Policy

Date	Name	Position	Signature