



BOWLS
NORTHERN TERRITORY

POLICY STATEMENT .

EXTREME WEATHER POLICY .

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1.

Introduction.

This document has been created to assist with the processes of managing heat stress, extreme heat conditions and ensuring Bowls NT mitigates the risk to its players, officials and spectators.

The policy aims to provide guidance for protecting the health of those participating in the sport also supporting Clubs and officials and to also minimise disruptions to play and programs. The intended policy users are Bowls NT authorities inclusive of Match Committee, Nth Territory Bowls Clubs (including committees, Boards, Club Managers, Games Directors and coaches), administrators responsible for the safety and wellbeing of people engaging in the sport of lawn bowls in hot weather.

Bowls NT has a duty of care towards its players to provide a safe environment for play and to ensure best practices are adhered to in the interests of all its members. Bowls NT is concerned that its members participation in the game of bowls is in the safest environment possible and with a minimum of risk or harm.

We would also comment that the decision of whether to suspend or discontinue play is at the discretion of the umpire and/ or controlling body. Bowls NT does not intend to second guess the judgement of the umpiring or controlling body at any game.

Scope

This policy applies to all persons either working, playing or volunteering under the banner of Bowls NT Association.

The scope of this document is to provide guidelines to assist in the management and decision making during these extreme heat conditions and to achieve the following :

- Maintain a healthy and safe environment.**
- Minimise risk to players, officials and spectators.**
- Encourage people affected by heat stress and dehydration to report and seek treatment.**

- Enable the appropriate people to perform their role and responsibilities and
- Provide a greater direction for Clubs and officials.

Education and training

Bowls NT will raise the awareness about heat stress and dehydration management with education which shall include the provision and delivery of guidelines and instructions through awareness displayed on all notice boards. This education will give players, managers and administrators the knowledge and ability to manage their own health, safety and well-being. Players are encouraged to learn about heat stress and heat exposure. This will then allow them to implement procedures to mitigate heat stress and alert them early to players who may be deteriorating in extreme conditions.

Clubs responsibilities.

Nth Territory Clubs should commit to the protection players, officials and spectators and ensure the following :

- Providing adequate shading, water and rest facilities for all players, officials and spectators.
- To reconsider rescheduling matches if extreme heat is forecast and asking players at intervals if they are comfortable to continue playing.
- To remind players of their own personal responsibilities to monitor their health, keep hydrated and alert authorities if they feel any symptoms of extreme heat stress.
- Managing distressed players and ensuring adequate shade and rest facilities.
- Having officials, staff or volunteers with First Aid qualifications present during all days of extreme heat.
- Not to pressure players to play on days of extreme heat in any circumstances.

- Acceptance and willingness to play matches in late afternoon and/ or evening if required.
- Clubs need to ensure electrolyte drinks and/or powders are available to players, officials and spectators.
- Clubs to ensure easy access to SPH 30+ or higher broad spectrum water resistant sunscreen is available for all participants.

Clubs and the controlling body should ensure consideration is given to all persons irrespective of age who are participating and due care is taken during extreme heat conditions.

Bowls NT responsibilities.

Bowls NT Board will ensure the following :

- Appropriate advertising is made available to all Clubs to display on their noticeboards to assist identification and awareness of heat stress and dehydration.
- Annual audit will be conducted on all Clubs to ensure they meet the Club requirements and assist where possible.
- Match committee will avoid any scheduling of State events during the period December till mid March.
- Provide Clubs with support to ensure all umpires and any other volunteer have an opportunity to undertake First Aid training to assist at Clubs during days of extreme heat.

Umpires and controlling bodies responsibilities

People who are in control of any event have a duty of care and should ensure the following :

- **Bowls NT advises where possible clubs / controlling body should usually continue play where they are able to do so however player and officials safety will remain the paramount concern.**
- **The umpire / controlling body have the power to suspend play for a period of two hours if there is chance any adverse weather conditions may improve. If such does not occur then play would be suspended.**
- **The umpires / controlling body must take serious consideration upon receipt of a complaint and request from a player/s about the playing conditions being extreme.**
- **Where ever possible umpires to have some basic first aid training.**