

GolfWA Severe Weather Policy

Approval History

Version	Date	Approved By	Date Effective	Responsible
1.0	6/8/2012	Chief Executive/GMC	Immediate	Golf Operations Manager
2.0	01/01/22	Chief Executive	Immediate	Golf Operations Manager

Distribution

Audience	Access
GolfWA Staff	GolfWA Intranet, GolfWA Policy & Procedures Manual

Required Reading

- GolfWA Chief Executive
- GolfWA Golf Operations Manager
- GolfWA Event Managers
- GolfWA Occupational Safety and Health Officer

Revision Schedule

Date of Next Review: As required

Reviewer/s: GolfWA Safety and Health Officer, Golf Operations Manager

Document History

Version	Date	Author	Description of Changes
1.0	July 2012	Russell O'Callaghan (P&AA)	Original
2.0	1 Jan 2022	Neil Goddard	Various Amendments

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Introduction and Purpose

The safety of players, caddies, volunteers, officials and followers at GolfWA managed events is of paramount importance. This document aims to provide an overview of GolfWA's policy on the treatment of severe weather conditions, either anticipated or during any event managed by GolfWA.

Scope

This procedure applies to any GolfWA managed events where there is a possible or actual risk of lightning occurring and when players, staff and spectators may be exposed to extremes of temperature as per below.

Policy

GolfWA defines "severe weather" as anticipated or observed climatic conditions such as:

- 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)

that require consideration or demand, the amendment, suspension, postponement, resumption or cancellation of play.

GolfWA reserves the right to amend, postpone or cancel a GolfWA event if anticipated weather conditions are deemed unsafe for play within 48 hours of the event commencing.

During a GolfWA managed event, a GolfWA Official will be rostered to monitor local weather conditions and will be authorised to amend, postpone, suspend, resume or cancel play according to the GolfWA's "Severe Weather Monitoring and Action Procedures" and direct players, caddies, volunteers, officials and followers accordingly. **Considerations that will be taken in account will include 'feels like' temperature according to available data and age of competitors.**

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

Procedures

The following tables detail what actions should be taken in preparation, or when certain weather conditions are forecast prior to an event, or observed during an event. The Golf Australia "Elite Competition Administration Manual, Section 8: Suspension of Play and Evacuation Plan" should act as a reference for all GolfWA events.

Prior to a GolfWA Event:

The GolfWA Event Manager should monitor or delegate the monitoring of weather conditions, prior to the event. Decisions such as amendments, postponements or cancellations should be taken after consultation with hosts and/or competition officials.

Nature of Forecast Weather	Criteria	Decision	Actions	Responsible	Communication
All	Preparation	Prepare	2 days prior to the event obtain BOM Duty Forecaster contact number, check event siren and sufficient air sirens are available and working, prepare Course Evacuation Map, identify First Aid assistance.	GolfWA Event Manager	Internal
Hot	Temperature > 30C	Advise	Advise competitors, hosts, officials and volunteers of sun smart behaviour/hydration, ensure hydration facilities are available, possibly at cost to the event.	GolfWA Event Manager	Email/Web
Hot	Temperature > 30C, high humidity	Advise	Advise competitors, hosts, officials and volunteers of core body temperature alert, emphasise keeping cool, walk in shade, need to hydrate with cold/iced water, ensure hydration facilities are available, possibly at cost to the event.	GolfWA Event Manager	Email/Web
Hot	Temperature >40C	Advise	Advise competitors, hosts, officials and volunteers "Monitoring situation, likely amendment, cancellation (e.g. All day 36 holes to 18 holes AM) or possible cancellation/postponement."	GolfWA Event Manager	Email/Web
Lightning	Playing conditions could be unsafe	Advise	Advise competitors, hosts, officials and volunteers "Monitoring situation, likely amendment or possible cancellation/postponement."	GolfWA Event Manager	Email/Web
Wind	Playing conditions could be unsafe	Advise	Advise competitors, hosts, officials and volunteers "Monitoring situation, likely amendment or possible cancellation/postponement."	GolfWA Event Manager	Email/Web
Cold	Temperature < 5C	Advise	Advise competitors, hosts, officials and volunteers "Monitoring situation, likely change 36 holes in one day to 27/18 holes starting late morning."	GolfWA Event Manager	Email/Web

During a GolfWA Event:

The GolfWA Event Manager should monitor or delegate the monitoring of weather conditions, throughout the duration of the event day. Decisions should be taken after consultation with competition officials.

Nature of Weather	Criteria	Decision	Actions	Responsible	Communication
All	Preparation	Advise	Monitor BOM website or contact BOM Duty Forecaster for day's outlook, test event siren and air siren/s, advise competitors, hosts, officials and volunteers of suspend/resume/evacuate protocols.	GolfWA Event Manager	Tournament Noticeboard
Hot	Temperature > 36C	Advise	Monitor, advise competitors, hosts, officials and volunteers of sun smart behaviour/hydration, ensure hydration facilities are available, possibly at cost to the event.	GolfWA Event Manager	Tournament Noticeboard
Hot	Temperature > 36C, high humidity	Advise	Monitor, advise competitors, officials, volunteers and spectators of sun smart behaviour/hydration, ensure hydration facilities are available, possibly at cost to the event.	GolfWA Event Manager	Tournament Noticeboard
Hot	Temperature > 38C	Advise	Consider temperature trend, humidity, and time left to play, advise officials of possibility of suspension of play.	GolfWA Event Manager	Tournament Noticeboard
Hot	Temperature > 40C	Suspend Non-Dangerous	Consider Suspend play, direct competitors to clubhouse or designated evacuation designated assembly point points and advise marshals and competitors every half an hour.	GolfWA Event Manager	Siren - 1 long blast
Hot	Temperature < 40C	Resume	Resume play when temperature falls below 40C, if decision to suspend has been actioned.	GolfWA Event Manager	Siren - 2 short blasts
Cold	Temperature < 0C	Suspend Dangerous	Hyperthermia risk, suspend play and direct competitors, officials, volunteers and spectators to designated assembly point points via marshals and evacuate everyone to safety.	GolfWA Event Manager	Siren - 1 long blast
Cold	Temperature < 5C	Advise	Monitor, advise competitors, marshals, officials, volunteers and spectators to stay warm via clothing.	GolfWA Event Manager	Tournament Noticeboard
Lightning	Flash-Bang < 30 seconds	Suspend Dangerous	Lightning is within 10km and dangerous, direct competitors, officials, volunteers and spectators to designated assembly point points via marshals and evacuate everyone to safety.	GolfWA Event Manager	Siren - 1 long blast
Lightning	Flash-Bang > 30 seconds	Resume	Monitor, contact BOM Duty Forecaster for more detailed information, only resume when lightning is out of range as advised by BOM or flash to bang > 30 seconds	GolfWA Event Manager	Siren - 2 blasts

Nature of Weather	Criteria	Decision	Actions	Responsible	Communication
Rain	Green/s un playable	Suspend Non-Dangerous	Greens unplayable due to casual water around the hole, suspend play, competitors to hold positions and advise every half an hour via tournament staff	GolfWA Event Manager	Siren - 3 short blasts
Rain	Green/s playable	Resume	Resume play when greens are playable	GolfWA Event Manager	Siren - 2 blasts
Wind	Green/s un playable	Suspend Non-Dangerous	If wind is blowing balls off the greens suspend play and competitors to hold positions and advise every half an hour via tournament staff	GolfWA Event Manager	Siren - 3 short blasts
Wind	Green/s playable	Resume	Resume when wind has subsided to playable condition	GolfWA Event Manager	Siren - 2 blasts
Wind	Playing and viewing conditions are unsafe	Suspend Dangerous	If very high winds are blowing debris onto the course, suspend play, direct competitors, hosts, officials and volunteers to designated assembly point points via marshals and evacuate everyone to safety.	GolfWA Event Manager	Siren – 1 long blast
Wind	Playing conditions now safe	Resume	Resume play when wind has subsided to safe conditions, consult BOM for next two hour's forecast	GolfWA Event Manager	Siren - 2 blasts
Fog	Playing conditions are unsafe	Suspend Dangerous	Suspend play, direct competitors to designated assembly point points via marshals but no need for evacuation, and advise players, spectators and staff every half	GolfWA Event Manager	Siren - 1 long blast
Fog	Playing conditions now safe	Resume	Resume play when fog has lifted	GolfWA Event Manager	Siren - 2 blasts
Danger	Event conditions are unsafe	Suspend Dangerous	Suspend play, direct competitors, hosts, officials and volunteers to designated assembly point points via marshals and evacuate everyone to safety.	GolfWA Event Manager	Siren - 1 long blast
Danger	Event conditions are now safe	Resume	If the danger has passed and will not return then play may be resumed	GolfWA Event Manager	Siren – 2 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.	GolfWA Event Manager	Broadcast all channels e.g. Tournament Board, email, web, two-way radio

Required Reading Register - GolfWA Severe Weather Policy			
Date	Name	Position	Signature