



Combined APS/AGSV Sport Adverse Weather Policy

1. Context

- (a) The APS and AGSV separately and together, oversee competition in a range of sports at a range of venues. Each organisation has in place a considered management structure for overseeing inter-school sporting competition.
- (b) As part of their governance responsibilities the Heads of the APS and AGSV schools have identified the need to provide guidelines for those acting on their behalf in the management of inter-school sporting competition.
- (c) As the APS and AGSV provide a combined competition for Girls Sport and also play representative matches against each other, the Heads have consulted during the formulation of the guidelines that they believe to be appropriate.

2. Reference Points

- (a) The Heads of the Associations have made reference to appropriate documentation from well credentialed bodies on the likelihood and effects of heat stress.
- (b) The Heads of the Associations have shared legal advice which inform their responsibilities under what may be regarded as "duty of care".
- (c) The Heads of the Associations have made appropriate reference to "community standard" regarding the provision of sporting competition in general, and in particular sports.
- (d) The Heads of the Associations have involved their own senior staff who are experienced in the provision of inter-school sporting competitions in the consultative processes.

3. The Function of the Policy

This is a general policy designed to draw attention to the general risks of heat-related illness or injury in sport and provide precise guidelines for conduct of sporting activities in hot weather.

4. Supporting Documentation

Documentation which should be read in conjunction with the policy is provided within Appendix 1.

5. Policy Detail

(a) *Prior to the Event*

- (i) If at 9.00 a.m. on the day prior to the matches/event the predicted temperature in the Greater Melbourne and Metropolitan area as provided by the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) is greater than 40°C then the APS/AGSV Sports Offices in conjunction with their Chairs of Heads will by 10.00 a.m. on the day prior cancel all sport (for the sake of clarity this includes indoor and outdoor sport)
- (ii) Prior to the event the monitoring of the predicted temperature will be the responsibility of the Executive Officers of the respective Associations.

(b) *On the day of the Event*

- (i) At 31°C (ambient temperature) Directors of Sport, Sport Coordinators and Coaches must consider and implement where appropriate management procedures consistent with the advice provided in Appendix 1 which will attempt to ensure that environmental and risk factors relevant to heat stress are minimised.
- (ii) Once the ambient temperature is 36 degrees or above, then the game/event must be suspended. If the temperature does not fall below 36°C during the subsequent 30 minute period then the game/event must be cancelled. In the case of 1st XI Cricket and Rowing Regattas (APS only), competition may resume in the allocated playing time.

- (iii) On the day of the event the responsibility for monitoring temperatures is as described below:

Outdoors:

- (AGSV) It is the responsibility of the *Home School Sports Coordinator* or their delegated representative to monitor the BoM Website to determine local temperatures.
- (APS) It is the responsibility of the *Home Delegate* or their delegated representative to monitor the BoM Website to determine local temperatures.

Indoors:

- (AGSV) It is the responsibility of the *Home School Sports Coordinator* or their delegated representative to use a thermometer to gauge the temperature.
- (APS) It is the responsibility of the *Home Delegate* or their delegated representative to use a thermometer to gauge the temperature.

Central Venue:

- (AGSV) It is the responsibility of the venue manager to determine the temperature.
- (APS) It is the responsibility of the venue manager to determine the temperature.

(Central Venue managers must be informed of the APS/AGSV Combined Policy)

(c) *Major Events:*

That in the event of an imposed delay or cancellation due to adverse weather for the finals of the Combined Sports (Athletics and Swimming), Diving (APS) and The APS Regatta, these events may continue when it is safe to proceed in whole or part at the discretion of the Chair of Heads in consultation with the AGSV Heads and in conjunction with the AGSV Executive Officer.

6. Communication

- (a) This policy will be communicated by the Chairs of the Heads of the APS and AGSV to:
- (i) The Executive Officers of their respective Associations
 - (ii) To other relevant senior staff within their Associations
- (b) The Executive Officers and other relevant staff will have the responsibility of communicating the Policy to Sports Coordinators within their Schools.
- (c) Any public statements regarding the policy should be made only by the Chairs of the Heads of the respective Associations or by the Executive Officers of the Associations if the Chairs deem it appropriate to delegate that responsibility.

7. Implications for Practice

- (a) The Position Descriptions of the Executive Officers of the respective Associations and of any other relevant Senior Staff must reflect precisely the responsibilities indicated above
- (b) Position Descriptions for Sports Coordinators within competing Schools must reflect precisely the responsibilities indicated here including the communication to coaches and team managers of the detail within Appendix 1.
- (c) The policy as outlined above has implications for the means of communication between team coaches/managers and senior sports staff on competition days including a review of the use of mobile phones.
- (d) It would be prudent for schools to review the nature of relevant medical information they request from parents/carers regarding the predispositions of students to the effects of heat.