



Extreme Weather Policy

The Board and Golf Operations Committee have created an Extreme Weather Policy to assist in providing a safe environment for players that reflects a duty of care for its members and guests.

The Representative for the City of Geelong Council reserves the right to suspend play or close the course due to extreme weather of any kind including but not limited to fog, frost, snow, wind, temperature, and lightning.

Other than when the course is closed or play is suspended due to extreme weather, players are not precluded from playing on the day. All golfers must consider the weather conditions prior to commencing their round of golf and shall play at their own risk.

Air Quality Policy

Purpose: To reduce the risk of potential harm to players, due to poor air quality.

The following information will be referred to by the Match Committee or their representative to establish predicted poor air quality conditions in Geelong.

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) Air Quality ratings will be used.

<https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/for-community/airwatch>

[https://aqicn.org/city/australia/melbourne/geelongsth./](https://aqicn.org/city/australia/melbourne/geelongsth/)

In circumstances of extremely poor air quality, play maybe suspended or cancelled at the discretion of the Match Committee or their representative present on competition days. Should play be suspended due to air quality conditions, play shall not resume until such conditions moderate. If the air quality advise for the remainder of the day shows no likelihood of improved conditions, play shall be abandoned for the day.

Air quality measure	Action
VERY GOOD (0-33)	Enjoy activities.
GOOD (34-66)	Enjoy activities.
FAIR (67-99)	People unusually sensitive to air pollution should re-consider playing.
VERY POOR (100-149)	AIR POLLUTION HEALTH ALERT Asthmatics or symptomatic non-asthmatics and those in Item 3 should not play. All Junior Golf Programs will be cancelled.
HAZARDOUS (150+)	AIR POLLUTION HEALTH ALERT Play will be suspended, and the course closed.

It is recommended by Health Professionals that people with existing respiratory issues like asthma stay inside and avoid strenuous activity when the air quality deteriorates. Similar advice for high-risk groups – including people over 65, children 14 yrs. or younger, pregnant women and those with existing heart or lung conditions.

Extreme Heat Policy

The extreme heat component of this policy has been developed with reference to Golf Australia [Hot Weather Guidelines](#) and [Sports Medicine Australia's](#) website.

Temperature - The table below is taken from Sports Medicine Australia's policies.

Note:

1. These guidelines are for generally more strenuous activities than golf.
2. The table provides an approximate guide to weather conditions and appropriate individual responses. There are not clear demarcations in risk between temperature ranges.

Ambient temperature	Relative humidity	Risk of thermal injury	Possible modifying action for vigorous sustained activity
15 – 20°		Low	Heat illness can occur in distance running. Caution over motivation
21 - 25°	> 60%	Low– mod	Increase vigilance. Caution over-motivation
26 - 30°	> 50%	Moderate	Moderate early pre-season intensity. Reduce intensity and duration of training/play. Take more breaks.
31 – 35°	> 30%	High – very high	Limit intensity; Limit duration of activity to less than 60 mins per session.
36° & above	> 25%	Extreme	Consider postponement to a cooler part of the day or cancellation.

Strategies for Reducing Risk

Event scheduling

Where possible, golf events should be scheduled to avoid the hottest part of the day. This can be done by conducting competitions in the morning, during the summer months and by considering playing 18 holes rather than 36 holes on those days, subject to event type, field size and venue availability.

The Queens Park Golf Club heat rule applies for members competitions is as follows:

If the forecast by the BOM is 37C degrees or above for Geelong at 5.00pm on the previous evening, the competition(s) for the day following will be cancelled.

The Match Committee also reserves the right to modify, postpone, suspend, or cancel any competitions at their discretion if, in their opinion, conditions due to a combination of heat and/or humidity, are considered unsafe.

As previously stated at the beginning of this policy, members may elect to play socially in their existing time slots, at their own risk.

Should the event/s for the extreme heat day be of a significant nature e.g., Medal, or major event, the event will be rescheduled if possible.

Members who play on days of extreme heat are advised to apply sunscreen, wear hats, carry an umbrella and other protective clothing and continually re-hydrate (with water) during play.

Heat Stress - The policy notes that stresses occur when air temperatures exceed 35C and particularly when body temperatures exceed 37.6C. Heat illnesses arising from excessive heat while playing sports include: • Heat rash • Heat cramps • Heat exhaustion and heat stroke
• Fainting and hyperventilation

NB: The cancellation of the competition on days of extreme heat represents the club's advice that members should take appropriate and due care for their health and welfare. Members will know before arriving at the course of the situation that they can expect.

Lightening, Thunderstorms and Strong Winds Policy

Purpose: To reduce the risk of injury to players from lightening, thunderstorm, or any other dangerous situation on the course.

The following guidelines to be implemented:

If the **BOM** forecast predicts thunder and lightning strike possibilities in the immediate area, or strong winds likely to exceed 50 kph, causing the course to become potentially unsafe.

The Golf Shop manager or their nominee oversees the course and has the authority to make safety decisions. Having access to weather forecasts on the day of play and seeing signs of developing local thunderstorms, the Golf Shop manager or their nominee will use the My Lightning Tracker app and the BOM website to monitor lightning strikes. They will make the decision to call for the suspension and subsequent resumption of play in consultation with any Match Committee representative present.

Emergency procedure:

When safety requirements require the cessation/suspension of play the **warning siren will sound:**

BY **ONE 10 SECOND** CONTINUAL BLAST – FOLLOWED BY **ONE 5 SECOND** BLAST.

When lightning is within the area and the siren is sounded, Members/Players will:

- **Stop playing immediately**, golf ball must be left in position (can be marked but must stay where it is) and be played when play resumes.
- Make their way back to the Clubhouse for further instruction and exercise caution whilst doing so.
- Avoid standing under trees or near water. Avoid having unnecessary contact with steel or metal products.

Resumption of Play:

- **(3)** short blasts of the siren. Players should return to their positions immediately and resume play.

When lightning prohibits the start of play or delays play, the tee time of each group unable to commence by its designated tee time can commence play at the first hole at the time play can resume.

Fog Policy

Play will not commence or will be suspended if the flag on the 12th hole is not visible from the road beside the entrance of the Golf Shop.

Should a decision be made by the Golf Shop staff member on duty, or Match Committee member on duty to suspend play due to fog, a siren consisting of one fifteen second blast will be sounded to indicate that play has been suspended.

- Players must stop immediately, mark their ball, and must not re-commence play.
- The Golf Shop staff member or Match Committee member must advise the Course Ground Staff of any decision to suspend or re-commence play.
- Any decision to re-commence play will be made by the Golf Shop staff member, Relevant Club Captain or Match Committee member.

Play may re-commence when the flag on the 12th hole is visible from the road beside the entrance of the Golf Shop and this will be indicated by two short blasts of the siren, repeated three times, with a pause in-between.

Upon resumption of play, players must ensure the group in front, or any persons are not within hitting range before playing a stroke.

When fog prohibits the start of play or delays play, the tee time of each group unable to commence by its designated tee time can commence play at the first hole at the time play can resume.

Frost Policy

Play may have to stop, not commence, or be delayed in the event of a heavy frost. A decision on frost conditions will be made by the most senior groundsman on duty.

The Greens Staff on duty will be responsible for informing the Match Committee and Golf Shop staff when play can commence. When a frost occurs, no golf carts, nor member owned, and operated ride-on buggies are permitted on the course and no buggies are permitted across greens.

When frost prohibits the start of play or delays play, the tee time of each group unable to commence by its designated tee time can commence play at the first hole at the time play can resume.

Course Unplayable

The above weather conditions along with excessive wind and driving rain/ hail, submerged greens, sodden fairways, fog, threat of broken branches or general player safety can render the course unplayable.

If the Match Committee or Golf Shop staff in consultation with the Greens Staff deems the course to be unplayable, play will be suspended immediately until such time as it is considered safe to resume play. If play is unable to resume, the event will be cancelled or postponed.

On advice from the Match Committee of a situation which warrants suspension of play players may discontinue play immediately or continue to play out the hole provided they do so without delay. Play must be discontinued after the completion of the hole.

NOTE: The Match Committee will assume the responsibility for any decisions relating to competitions and this policy. Players who have completed their round will be handicapped.

Players who do not complete their rounds due to the activation of the Extreme Weather Policy will not have their rounds handicapped.

Board and Traditional Events (excluding Club Championships):

Should the Extreme Weather Policy be activated by any of the above conditions, the following procedure will be followed.

For 18-hole events

- The event shall be rescheduled to another date if possible or cancelled at the relevant Captain's discretion.
- Once a Board or Traditional event has commenced and more than 80% of entrants have completed the event, then should play be suspended due to the activation of the Extreme Weather Policy, the event can be deemed to be a "live" event where a result can be declared.
- If fewer than 80% of entrants have completed the event then it shall be postponed (or cancelled) to a date to be determined by the relevant Captain.
- Completed rounds for the day on which a postponement occurs will not count towards the event but may be handicapped.
- In the case of Match play events that are disrupted players will mark their balls so that the match may be completed later that day or on a later date. Or the match may be re-played on a later date.
- On the morning of the competition day when the golf shop opens (generally 7.30am) if the Extreme Weather Policy is activated, and the major traditional competitions have been cancelled or postponed, the daily competition may be replaced with a morning only competition and an afternoon only competition if the extreme weather has not yet eventuated.
- If there is a likelihood that the Extreme Weather Policy will be activated, signs will be placed outside the Golf Shop and on the 1st and 10th tees to alert members to the risk of playing in extreme weather conditions and to reconsider their need to play.
- Players who participate in the morning and afternoon competitions and or any social play will be subject to a weather alert (1 long blast of the siren) should the Extreme Weather Policy be activated during play. At that time ALL play will be suspended. ALL play will remain suspended until the reason for the activation of the Extreme Weather Policy has passed. Resumption of play will be indicated by 3 short blasts of the siren.
- If the elapsed time for the playing conditions to be deemed to be safe exceeds 45 minutes, then no further competition play will be allowed, except in the case of matches, where opponents may agree to complete their match once conditions become safe.
- If 20 or more players have completed their rounds before the cancellation of the competition, appropriate prizes shall be awarded as determined by the Match Committee. Players who have completed their round will be handicapped. Players who do not complete their rounds due to the activation of the Extreme Weather Policy will not have their rounds handicapped.