

Bowls Victoria Weather Policy



Developed: April 2020

1. PRINCIPLE

- 1.1 Bowls Victoria (BV) strives to ensure that its members participate in the game of bowls in the safest environment possible and with minimum risk of harm. The safety of players and officials will remain the paramount consideration. This includes ensuring the following BV Weather Policy applies to BV events, state-wide.
- 1.2 The decision to suspend or discontinue play as a result of weather conditions remains at the discretion of the Controlling Body.
- 1.3 BV provides the following Weather Policy for use during all BV events.

2. INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY

- 2.1 Members should take into account their own health considerations before or during a game of Bowls. If they consider the Weather is unsafe for them to play, they need to let their club know of their unavailability.

3. WHERE BOWLS VICTORIA IS THE CONTROLLING BODY -

- 3.1 At all events where BV is the Controlling Body, the following methods may be used to assess and monitor the weather at the event's location:
 - Bureau of Meteorology website (bom.gov.au)
 - Any other appropriate portable measuring device as approved by the Controlling Body.

4. HOT WEATHER POLICY PROCESS FOR WEEKEND METROPOLITAN PENNANT

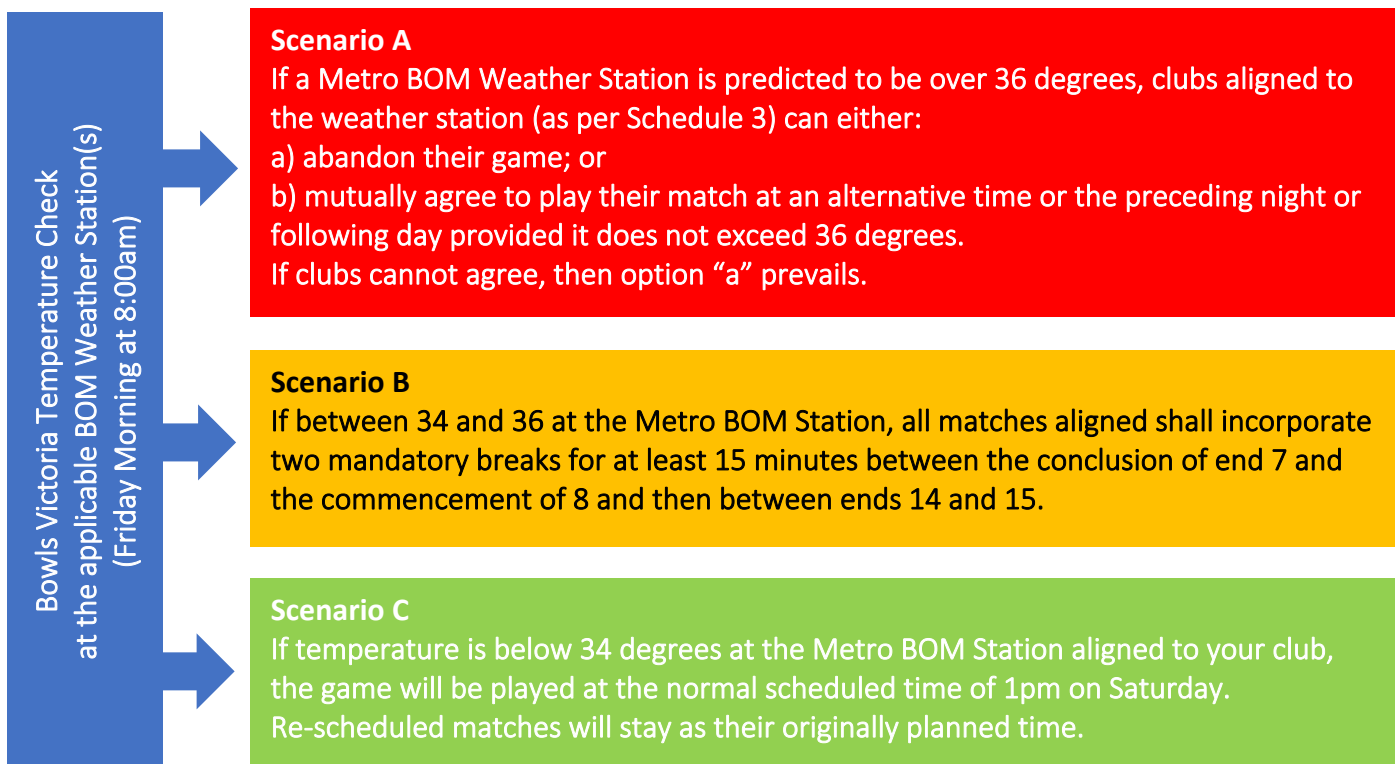
The following shall be adopted by Bowls Victoria when hot conditions are expected for all matches of Weekend Metropolitan Pennant matches.

All players, clubs & members should be aware that Rule 50 should be exercised if a game of Metropolitan Pennant has commenced.

4.1 Bowls Victoria will review the temperature for Weekend Metro Pennant Matches on Friday Morning at 8am via the BOM (Bureau of Meteorology) App at 8 Metropolitan Pennant BOM Weather Stations (Moorabbin, Laverton, Coldstream, Viewbank, Scoresby, Melbourne Airport, Melbourne Olympic Park, Frankston).

4.2 Temperatures taken from this reading follow the below flowchart:

WEEKEND METRO PENNANT FLOWCHART



4.3 Outcomes of Weekend Metro Pennant

4.3.1 If the outcome of A, B or is made, then Bowls Victoria will notify clubs via e-mail, Facebook and on the Bowls Victoria website bowlsvic.org.au by **Friday at Midday** - it is the club CCO's responsibility if outcome A or B is made to notify their pennant playing members and club on this outcome.

4.3.2 If the outcome of C is made, then Bowls Victoria will take no action.

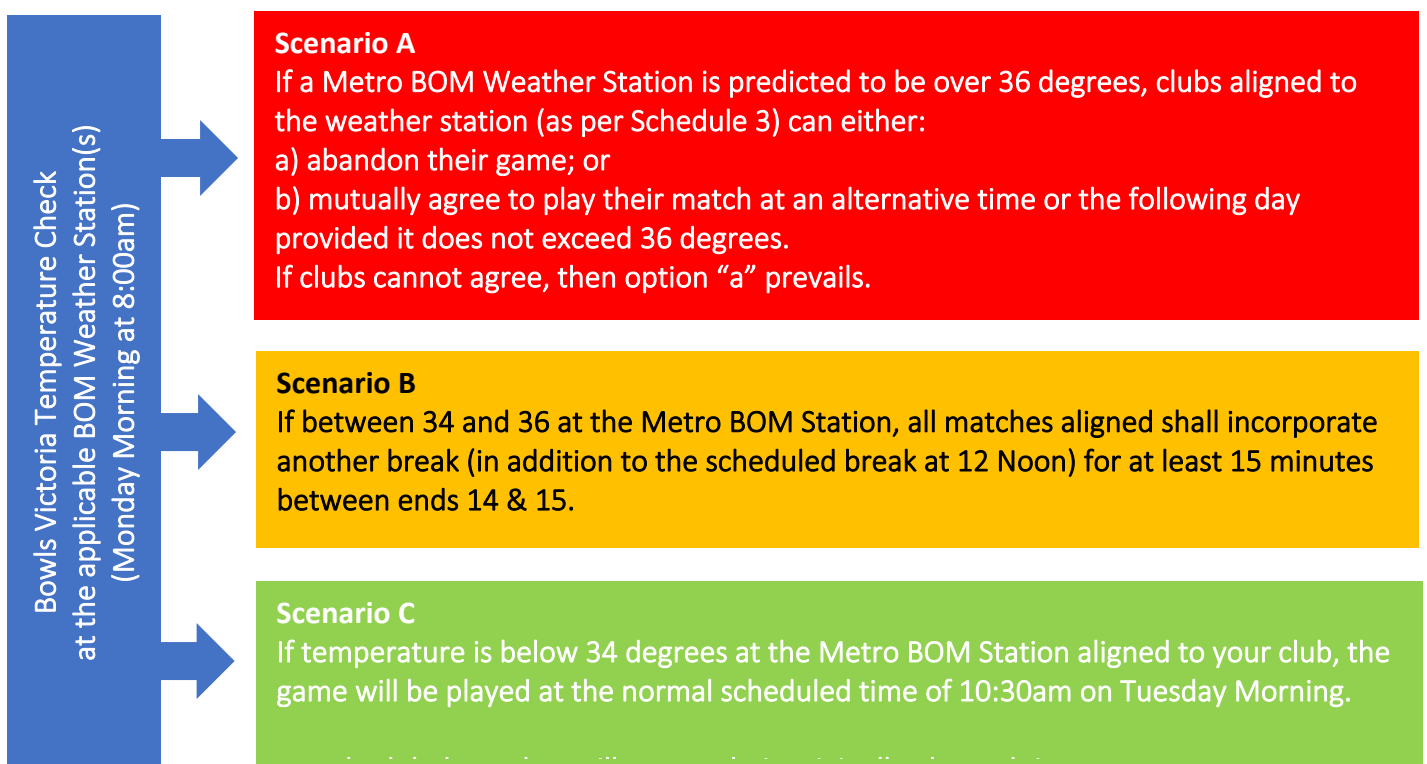
5. HOT WEATHER POLICY PROCESS FOR MIDWEEK METROPOLITAN PENNANT

The following shall be adopted by Bowls Victoria when hot conditions are expected for all matches of Midweek Metropolitan Pennant matches.

All players, clubs & members should be aware that Rule 50 should be exercised if a game of Metropolitan Pennant has commenced.

- 5.1 Bowls Victoria will review the temperature for Midweek Metro Pennant Matches on Friday Morning at 8am via the BOM (Bureau of Meteorology) App at 8 Metropolitan Pennant BOM Weather Stations (Moorabbin, Laverton, Coldstream, Viewbank, Scoresby, Melbourne Airport, Melbourne Olympic Park, Frankston).
- 5.2 Temperatures taken from this reading follow the below flowchart

MIDWEEK METRO PENNANT FLOWCHART



5.3 Outcomes of Midweek Metro Pennant

- 5.3.1 If the outcome of A or B is made, then Bowls Victoria will notify clubs via e-mail, Facebook and on the Bowls Victoria website bowlsvic.org.au **by Monday at Midday** - it is the club CCO's responsibility if outcome A or B is made to notify their pennant playing members that a round is cancelled.
- 5.3.2 If the outcome of C is made, then Bowls Victoria will take no action.

6. HOT WEATHER POLICY FOR COUNTRY REGION AND DIVISION PENNANT

- 6.1 Each controlling body in a Country Region/Division Pennant Competition must have a local approach to measuring temperature.
- 6.2 Bowls Victoria Country Region and Division Pennant Competitions can adopt the Weekend & Midweek Metropolitan Hot Weather Policy (Rule 3 & Rule 4) for their competitions – **however this must be communicated to all members through their Conditions of Play prior to the start of the season commencing.**
- 6.3 For all other Country Region and Division Pennant Competitions who do not adopt the Bowls Victoria Metropolitan Pennant Hot Weather Policy (Rule 3 & Rule 4), the following rules apply from Bowls Victoria after a local assessment of temperature has been measured:
- 6.3.1 In the event that the temperature in the local Region or Division is predicted to be 40 degrees or higher, the round of Pennant should be abandoned or re-scheduled to a different timeslot/day that is not over 40 degrees in conjunction with the local Region & Division Conditions of Play.
- 6.3.2 The Region or Division (the controlling body of the pennant competition) determines the temperature of Scenario B (a temperature that is close to the maximum temperature and therefore requires additional breaks to be taken throughout the match) & C (Temperature that is acceptable to play at the originally planned time).
- 6.4. If a change is made to a match either in day or time, or if it is abandoned. It is recommended by Bowls Victoria that the local Region & Division Pennant Controlling Body communicates all information via Phone, E-mail and where possible on the local Region & Division Website and/or Facebook Page.

Region & Division Country Pennant Temperature Check:
The Region & Division Pennant Controlling Body
has the ability to adopt the Metropolitan Pennant measures of assessing temperatures,
otherwise they must adopt the scenarios below.

**40
degrees
Celsius**

Scenario A

If a Region/Division Pennant Checks their local measure of assessing temperature for their competition and the expected temperature is over 40 degrees, matches can either be:

- a) abandoned; or
- b) mutually agree to play their match at an alternative time or day provided it does not exceed 40 degrees.

If clubs cannot agree, then option "a" prevails.

Scenario B → 39°C

Scenario B

Regions & Division Pennant Committees can determine what their Scenario B temperatures are. Scenario B involves matches incorporating two mandatory breaks for at least 15 minutes between ends 7 and 8 and then between ends 14 and 15.

Scenario C → B

Scenario C

Region & Division Pennant Committees can determine what their Scenario C temperatures. Scenario C indicates that scheduled matches will stay as their originally planned time.

Re-scheduled matches will stay as their originally planned time.

7. HOT WEATHER POLICY FOR BOWLS VICTORIA STATE EVENTS

- 7.1 For all State Events where Bowls Victoria is the Controlling Body, temperatures will not exceed 38 degrees for play, and temperatures will be checked in accordance with Rule 2.
- 7.2 For all State Events where Regions, Divisions or Clubs are the controlling body, all processes for measuring temperatures for Pennant are applied for all State Events.

8. MONITORING AND MANAGING HOT WEATHER

- 8.1 Before the start of play each day, the temperature will be assessed by the Controlling Body and an announcement to all players and officials will be made, *making them aware* of any expected extreme temperatures. Players and officials will also be made aware that the BV Weather Policy may be invoked during the event.
- 8.2 When the Controlling Body deems the temperature (as indicated using one of the methods listed in point 2.1 above) has reached the temperature specified within the Conditions of Play for pennant for that location, play will be suspended by the Controlling Body and all players will complete the end they are currently playing and move from the green to a cool, shady area. If the end is declared dead, the end will be replayed when the game is restarted
- 8.3 When the Controlling Body determines the temperature has fallen below the recommended guidelines, play should resume.
- 8.4 Players, officials, and spectators should at all times be encouraged to wear hats or other sun protection. Drinks should be available at every venue where play/competition takes place. Tap water should be available free of charge and in unlimited quantities.
- 8.5 Where possible, players and officials not involved in current play should seek shelter.

9. MONITORING AND MANAGING WET/COLD WEATHER

- 9.1 Before the start of the event, the Controlling Body will monitor the expected conditions for the duration of the event as per 2.1
- 9.2 If it begins to rain, play will continue until the Controlling Body deems it unsafe to do so.
- 9.3 When the Controlling Body deems it safe to return to the green, play should resume as per Law 32.

10. AIR QUALITY

- 10.1 For All Metropolitan Pennant Matches: If the EPA Air Quality (epa.vic.gov.au/EPAAirWatch) Forecast for the local Metropolitan area, 2 hours before the game is due to commence is rated as **Hazardous**, then that Round of Pennant will be abandoned. This would be communicated *by Bowls Victoria* to all Metropolitan Clubs and all points will be shared.
- 10.2 For all Metropolitan Pennant Matches: If the EPA Air Quality (epa.vic.gov.au/EPAAirWatch) Forecast the local Metropolitan area, 2 hours before the game is due to commence is rated as **Poor or Very Poor**, then the following will apply:

All clubs be sent a notification of the Forecast with guidance on how to use the Conditions of Play to deal with Air Quality, then the side managers and the controlling body (i.e. the host club) will monitor throughout the day.

- 10.3 Country Regions & Divisions should be aware of Air Quality Considerations whilst scheduling or continuing to play a game of Pennant.
- 10.4 Bowls Victoria will monitor any compromised Air Quality for State Events.

11. SNOW

- 11.1 If the playing surface is covered in snow before the game is set to commence, both side managers of the day will agree whether the game continues. If the side managers cannot agree, this is referred to the umpire of the day.
- 11.2 If the playing surface is clear when commencing a match but whilst playing, snow is affecting the playing surface, the side manager will decide whether the match continues. For matches that do not have a side manager, the controlling body will make the final decision on the match continuing.

12. LIGHTNING

- 12.1 Lightning can strike without other typical storm characteristics (i.e. thunder, rain and wind) being present.
- 12.2 If lightning is present, play should be immediately suspended. Players should move inside a sturdy building and stay inside until 30 minutes after the last sighting of lightning.
- 12.3 Artificial Devices such as Bowlers Arms and Bowls Lifters should not be handled while lightning is present.
- 12.4 When the Controlling Body deems it is safe to return to the green, play should resume as per Law 32.

13. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR CLUBS

- 13.1 Clubs should refer to their Region, Division, Club Controlling Body’s Policy to determine the approach to all play not involving a BV event.
- 13.2 The safety of players and officials should remain the paramount consideration with all situations involving weather.

Review history and version control

This policy will be reviewed every two years.

Version	Prepared	Reviewed	Approved	Date Approved
1.2	Member Services & Events Manager	CEO	Board	April 2020