

WET WEATHER GUIDELINES

Last updated: June 2020

The health and safety of members is a primary concern to Netball Victoria. Every Club, Association and League within Victoria has a responsibility to provide a safe environment for players, coaches, umpires and spectators, not only to reduce the potential of injury but also to meet legal duties of care. Clubs must take responsibility to develop guidelines for cancelling netball during wet weather.

Netball is played all year round and has traditionally been a winter sport. This means that on more than one occasion during the year an Association/League will be faced with making a decision to cancel or continue to play matches during wet weather. It is obviously preferable that games are not cancelled however, if the courts become dangerous it is in the best interest of all to cancel games as safety of members is paramount.

WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING THE DECISION?

The committee of management is responsible for making decisions in relation to wet weather. This may be to postpone the game, move to another court/venue or cancel the match. The decision should be based on participant safety, determining whether the wet weather increases the risk of injury beyond an acceptable level. It is advisable to consult the officiating umpires when making this decision.

In some circumstances where matches are played at different venues (eg. Football Netball Leagues) and there may not be a committee member present, each club should have a designated representative to make this decision.

WHEN SHOULD A GAME BE CANCELLED?

Netball Victoria has developed a pre-match checklist that can be used to assess the current status of the court and its surrounds. This checklist should be reviewed in light of changes in the weather conditions. As each court may vary in surface condition, position, drainage etc. courts should be audited individually, and decisions made accordingly.

The age and skill level of players should also be considered. Children are susceptible to illness in cold climates. Children also have a less developed perception of when they are cold and therefore may continue to exercise when they should actually stop. Coaches should pay particular attention to these factors when children are subjected to wet conditions, as water will enhance the loss of body heat.

HOW WILL THE DECISION BE COMMUNICATED TO TEAMS OR TEAM MANAGEMENT?

The Association should develop procedures to notify participants of cancellations.

Option 1: All teams required to report to the courts.

Option 2: Association to make a decision by a designated time and notify appointed team representative who passes the message on to their team.

CAN PLAYERS AND UMPIRES WEAR MATCHING TRACKSUIT PANTS IN EXTREMELY COLD WEATHER?

Yes, an Association/League can add a clause to their By-Laws that allows the competition convenor to permit the wearing of tracksuit pants in extreme circumstances.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A MATCH IS CANCELLED AFTER THE MATCH HAS STARTED?

- Option 1: Teams are awarded two points each.
- Option 2: If the match is cancelled after half time, the current score stands. If cancelled prior to half time, teams are awarded two points each.