CHAPTER 7: BOWLS SA INCLEMENT WEATHER CONDITIONS POLICY

INTRODUCTION

1. In our vast Country we are subject to a variety of weather conditions all of which can have an effect on the ability to complete bowls tournaments. In order to provide a definitive determination as to what constitutes 'inclement weather' and how these are to be treated when they do occur at tournaments held under the control of Bowls SA this policy sets out the manner in which these are to be determined and treated.

2. The intent of this policy is to provide clear guidelines on this matter so that Tournament committees have a firm basis for decision making in the interests of good sportsmanship and ensuring the safety of participants are cared for.

LIGHTNING

3. Whilst the occurrence of lightning is normally accompanied by both visual and sound recognition lightning has been recorded to strike at distance of 16 Kms from such observations. The rule of safety is that all play should be suspended when lightning is 10 Kms from the venue. At venues (i.e. Country Clubs) where there are lightning warning systems all players must adhere to these systems.

4. Once again there is an app available called 'Lightning Alarm' that gives a very graphic presentation of where lightning may be and its proximity to the location of the place where the app is being used.

RAIN

5. It's a fact that some greens drain better than others and thus it's quite conceivable that play may be possible at some venues whilst not the case at others.

6. At all times the Greenkeeper at each venue or his proxy shall be the sole determinant in deciding to suspend or stop play. Such decision may be done either before play commences or during the process of play. It must be noted that player discomfort is not a consideration for suspending play under these conditions.

7. Likewise, the Greenkeeper or his proxy is the sole determinants in deciding when play may commence again. Apart from consideration to the well-being of the playing surface an indicator of excessive water on the green as demonstrated by a bowl having been delivered causing a plume of water to follow its progress is also an acceptable guideline.

HEAT AND HUMIDITY

8. Everyone is at risk of heat-related illness during extreme hot weather some groups of people – such the elderly and people who have chronic health conditions – are more at risk than others.

9. Whilst there does not appear to be a definitive definition of what is considered the maximum temperature at which participation should be stopped the diagram below gives some indication as to the Heat Index, used to determine unsafe conditions:

		Humidity - %										
		0	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**50**	**60**	**70**	**80**	**90**	**100**
Temperature - ^{0}Celcius	**25**	24	24	24	24	25	25	25	25	26	26	25
	26	25	25	25	26	26	26	27	27	28	28	28
	27	26	26	26	26	27	27	28	29	30	31	33
	28	26	26	27	27	28	29	30	31	32	34	36
	29	26	27	28	28	29	30	31	33	35	37	41
	30	27	28	28	29	30	31	33	35	38	41	45
	31	28	29	29	30	31	33	35	38	41	45	49
	32	29	29	30	31	32	34	37	40	44	49	54
	33	29	30	31	32	34	36	40	44	48	54	60
	34	30	31	32	33	36	38	42	47	52	59	66
	35	31	32	33	35	37	41	45	51	57	64	72
	36	32	33	34	36	39	43	48	54	61	69	78
	37	32	34	35	38	41	46	51	58	66	75	85
	38	33	35	37	40	44	49	55	63	71	81	92
	39	34	36	38	41	46	52	59	67	77	87	100
	40	35	37	39	43	48	55	63	72	83	95	108
	41	36	38	41	45	51	58	67	77	87	102	116
	42	36	39	42	47	54	62	71	82	95	109	125
	43	37	40	44	50	57	66	76	88	102	117	134
	44	38	41	46	52	60	69	81	94	109	125	143
	45	39	42	47	54	63	73	86	100	116	133	153
	46	39	43	49	57	66	78	91	106	123	142	163

		Humidity - %										
		0	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**50**	**60**	**70**	**80**	**90**	**100**
	47	40	44	51	59	70	82	96	113	131	151	173
Temperature	**48**	40	46	53	62	73	87	102	120	139	160	184
	49	41	47	55	65	77	92	108	127	147	170	195
	50	41	48	57	68	81	96	114	134	156	180	206

Index

Colour	Heat Index Score	Health Danger
Green	< 27	No adverse effects expected due to heat
Yellow	27 - 32	Signs of exhaustion possible with prolonged and high level of physical activity
Orange	33 - 40	Sun stroke, heat cramps and fainting possible
Red	41 - 53	Sun stroke, heat cramps and fainting likely. Heat stroke possible
Purple	> 54	High risk, high likelihood of heat stroke and sun stroke

Note: The above information was calculated using the Relative Humidity tab of the Heat Index Calculator App (by VnMobileSolutions Inc). Figures are rounded to the nearest full number.

10. Clearly from the above there is a correlation between heat and humidity to give effect to determination in what is consider dangerous. It follows that a correlation between temperature and humidity needs to be established so that based on the combined factor of the two measurements a maximum temperature is calculated and used.

11. The following steps should be taken:

11.1. When the Heat Index reaches scores of **33 to 40** (Orange) – A water break of 10 to 15 minutes **must be taken** during each match (approximately at the halfway stage).

11.2. When the Heat Index reaches scores of 41 - 53 (Red) play **must be suspended** until such time as the Heat Index score drops below 40, and then para 11.1 must be adhered to.

11.3. When the Heat Index score reaches 54+ (Purple) play **must be abandoned**.

12. It is suggested that all Tournament Officials download the Heat Index Calculator App (by VnMobileSolutions Inc) from the Play Store. The temperature and humidity can be retrieved from most weather apps available on Play Store.

WIND

13. Excessive winds are normally more prevalent in our coastal areas, but sporadic excessive winds have been known to affect other areas.

14. The occurrence of the following events prohibiting the fair participation is considered to be proof of excessive wind speeds:

14.1. The jack cannot be placed without it moving from the designated position and

14.2. Where equipment such as scoreboards etc. placed in the proximity of the greens presents a danger to contestants.

GENERAL

15. The above measures will be the determinant when deciding with regard to inclement weather at all events run under the auspices of Bowls SA. Players participating in a Bowls SA event shall be deemed to have accepted the provisions of this document as it relates to that event.

16. The Event Co-ordinator at each venue will be the person responsible for communicating all decisions made with regard to inclement weather. In making such determination the Event coordinator must consider all factors including the health of participants.

17. Before such decisions are made the Organising committee or their designated official must have been advised of the need to suspend play.

18. Where possible it is preferable to recommence, play should conditions permit. The Event coordinator will be responsible, in conjunction with other authorities, for making such decision. In making such decision care must be taken that equity in terms of ends played is achieved across all teams competing at that venue.

19. Play may be stopped on appeal of a player / team to the Event Coordinator. The Event Coordinator, in conjunction with the Organising committee or their designated proxy, will after considering the appropriate conditions as set out above, make the required decision in this regard. The decision of the Event Coordinator will be final and binding on all participants.

20. Each venue hosting a Bowls SA event is expected to have such equipment as is necessary to measure temperature, humidity and potential lightning incidents. In addition, the greenkeeper or his proxy for each venue must be present in the event that a decision needs to be about the conditions of the greens.

21. Whilst sectional play at some venues may be more affected than others, play at those less affected should continue as per normal and in terms of the conditions of play provided that all participants in those sections are afforded equal opportunity to complete their obligations.

22. Bowls SA is committed to providing a safe environment for participants in the sport of bowls. The above policy has been drawn up with this in mind however it is not always possible to cover all eventualities and Tournament Officials are urged to take cognisance of the above and use these when reaching decisions as to the matter of inclement weather. The safety and health of participants under their control is of paramount importance.