

GIRLS SPORT VICTORIA INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY AND PROCESS FOR CANCELLATION

All sport should proceed where possible, in all weather conditions, with the exception of hail, lightning and extreme heat. Weather conditions need to be continually assessed during the playing time. In rainy conditions the playing surface conditions must be considered safe by the responsible staff. Safety of players is paramount.

Weekly Sport

Wet Weather

Cancellations due to wet weather should be made by 1.30 p.m. for after school matches, otherwise cancellations should be made after arrival at the venue. The exception to this rule is Junior Netball.

Junior Netball will be played at community venues and cancellations may be directed by the GSV Executive Officer or GSV Netball Convenor (appointed at each venue). Cancellations due to wet weather should be made by 1.30pm and the decision to cancel will be rung through to each school or alternatively, should the need arise (i.e. weather conditions change), at the venue.

Lightning and Severe Hail

Where student safety is compromised with severe hail or electrical storms, coaches of opposing teams shall, in consultation with each other and the referee/umpire (if applicable), immediately stop play and follow the guidelines for protection against lightning strikes as listed.

In the case of electrical storms play should only recommence if students' safety can be assured i.e. 30 minutes after the last sound of thunder. Should weather conditions fail to improve, the game shall be cancelled.

Determining Distance from the Storm Cell

The observation of approaching storm clouds, the first flash of lightning or clap of thunder, should heighten lightning-awareness. The level of risk depends on one's location (direction and distance) relative to the storm cell and the direction in which the storm is travelling.

A simple method for determining the distance to the storm cell is to measure the time elapsed from when the lightning flash is observed and when the associated clap of thunder is heard. The distance in kilometers to a lightning flash may be estimated by dividing the time delay (in seconds) between the flash and the thunder by 3. If you hear thunder, find shelter urgently, especially if the time delay is less than 30 seconds. Ensure students remain sheltered for at least 30 minutes after the last sound of thunder and:

- Seek shelter in a solid building, avoid small open structures
- Never shelter under small groups or single trees
- Stay away from metal objects i.e. poles, fences, umbrellas etc.

Extreme Heat

Cancellations due to extreme heat will be made at the discretion of the GSV Executive Officer. Cancellations due to extreme heat will be made at 1.30pm and the decision to cancel will be rung through to each school.

Sports Medicine Australia has written a policy on exercising in heat, with reference to The Heat Stress Index or WBGT (wet-bulb globe temperature). The WBGT takes into account temperature, humidity and air velocity and it is considered a reliable measure of the environmental heat stress. A safe temperature level will be set by GSV using the SMA policy as reference material. A guideline temperature is **34°C**.

Rescheduling

There shall be no rescheduling of matches cancelled due to inclement weather, except if a whole round has been cancelled then rescheduling is at the discretion of the GSV Executive Officer or if the overall zone result is affected. If the zone result is affected, then it should be agreed by the teams involved to reschedule or one team with forfeit the points of the match.

Match Results

The results will stand for any matches completed within a zone. Any matches not completed will receive 2 points each (equal to a draw).

If a match cannot continue for safety reasons, a minimum of half the match needs to have been completed for there to be a result. The exception to this rule is Cricket (Please refer to the specific rules of Cricket for relevant information.)

Major Carnivals, Annual Events and Tournaments

The GSV Executive Officer will make cancellations for full day activities by 7am. The decision to cancel will be rung through to each school's wet weather contact number. This number needs to be an after hours number, contactable one and half hours prior to start time and is to be registered at the time of team entry. GSV will additionally record a message on the GSV mobile number. This number should only be contacted by school staff. Parents are to contact schools rather than GSV directly. The GSV web site will also allow for effective and efficient dissemination of information such as cancellation of events due to inclement weather.

If a cancellation has not been made one and a half hours prior to the start time it is expected that all schools will arrive in plenty of time for the start of the carnival, annual event or tournament. GSV has the right to cancel or abandon aspects of the event at any time when inclement weather makes the activity unsafe.

Skill Development Programs

The process for the cancellation of Skill Development programs will be addressed in the 'Information Package' distributed to the participating schools at the start of the program.

Wet Weather

Cancellations will be made at the discretion of the GSV Project Officer and the State Sporting Association representative based on weather conditions predicted for the day of the program.

Extreme Heat

Cancellations will be made at the discretion of the GSV Project Officer and the State Sporting Association representative based on weather conditions predicted for the day of the program.

Sports Medicine Australia has written a policy on exercising in heat, with reference to The Heat Stress Index or WBGT (wet-bulb globe temperature). The WBGT takes into account temperature, humidity and air velocity and it is considered a reliable measure of the environmental heat stress. A safe temperature level will be set by GSV using the SMA policy as reference material. A guideline temperature is **34°C**.

There shall be no rescheduling of sessions disrupted by inclement weather.