

POLICY BACKGROUND

As an affiliated state body of the AFL, the West Australian Football Commission subscribes to the AFL Extreme Weather Policy which can be found at www.afl.com.au/policies.

LIGHTNING	
1	<p>In the event of lightning being present in the immediate proximity of the venue during the course of a match or training session, play / training shall be stopped and all involved parties are to return to the pavilion.</p> <p>30/30 SAFETY GUIDELINE</p> <p>In the absence of specific information from weather radar or a specialised warning device then the 30/30 Safety Guideline should be used. According to the 30/30 Safety Guideline, when lightning is considered to be a possible or actual threat to an Australian Football Match the following procedures are applicable:</p> <p>a) The observation of approaching storm clouds, the first flash of lightning or clap of thunder, no matter how far away 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 system is travelling.</p> <p>b) A simple method of 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.</p> <p>c) Light travels faster than sound. Assuming that the light from the flash reaches the observer instantaneously, and knowing that sound takes approximately three (3) seconds to travel one (1) kilometre, the distance can be determined by using the following rule: Distance (in Km) = Time from observing the flash to hearing thunder (in 3 seconds).</p> <p>d) It is important to remember that lightning may be obscured by clouds so it must be assumed that when thunder is heard, lightning is in the vicinity. In such cases, careful judgment must be used to determine whether a threat exists.</p> <p>e) The first part of the "30/30" rule is a guide to the postponement or suspension of activities. Most experts agree that the accepted "safe" distance from lightning is greater than 10km. This means that as the time interval between observing the flash and hearing the thunder approaches 30 seconds, all those in exposed areas should be seeking or already inside safe shelters. A storm cell with lightning activity within 10km constitutes a threat.</p> <p>f) The second part of the 30/30 rule provides the criteria for the resumption of activity. Here it is recommended that people wait a minimum of 30 minutes after the last sighting of lightning or sound of thunder. This figure is based on the observation that the typical storm moves at about 40km/h. Thus, waiting 30 minutes allows the thunderstorm to be about 20km away, minimising the likelihood of a nearby lightning strike.</p> <p>g) It is important to emphasise that blue skies and lack of rainfall are not adequate reasons to breach the 30 minute minimum return-to-activity rule.</p>

WAFC POL.05: Weather Policy

	<p>CLUB RESPONSIBILITY</p> <p>All Clubs should monitor environmental factors such as lightning both in matches and at any training session or activity administered by the Club. The Club should assess the lightning risk by reviewing information provided by the BOM. The following general guidelines should also be followed:</p> <p>a) If a lightning threat emerges, the nominated Club Official must contact all relevant parties (WAFC Competitions staff, Umpires, parents/guardians, oppositions Clubs etc) and provide updates on a regular basis.</p> <p>b) A decision to delay, suspend or resume training or game should be made in consultation with all relevant umpires, coaching and administration staff.</p> <p>c) If players are training when the lightning threat becomes real then they should leave the training venue immediately and take shelter inside a building or metal framed car. They should not shelter under or near trees or bodies of water.</p> <p>d) Once the storm’s path has been reassessed, there must be a minimum of 30 minutes elapsed before returning to play/training.</p> <p>e) When there is no access to the BOM, the “30/30” rule serves as a guide for the suspension and subsequent resumption of activities.</p>
OTHER EXTREME WEATHER OR ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS	
2	<p>In the case of any other events of extreme weather or environmental conditions, including but not limited to extremely strong winds, flood, extreme fire danger, or fires being present in the vicinity of the training session/game, consultation of all parties involved must take place to determine the safest outcome for all involved.</p>
RESULTS	
3	<p>If a game is abandoned due to weather conditions, the WAFC shall decide if the fixture is to be rescheduled or determine a result according to the progress score and point of the game at which the game was abandoned.</p> <p>For all regular season and final round matches, all decisions pertaining to the above rules will be controlled by the WAFC or their appointed officials as per the following guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Games abandoned <u>prior</u> to half time; the Match Day Official, or if not available the Team Managers will contact the Match Day Management Committee (Competition Team Leader or Competition Administrator) for guidance on how to proceed. • Games abandoned <u>after</u> half time will have the team with the higher score deemed to be the winner. The score at the point the game is abandoned will be determined to be the final score.

RESPONSIBILITY

All clubs competing in a competition administered by a Football Body should monitor environmental factors. Umpires in consultation with the WAFC competition official are responsible for the ongoing assessment of suitability to play in line with the respective AFL policies.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

[AFL Extreme Weather Policy](#)

[AFL Heat Policy](#)

[AFL Lightning Policy](#)