



DUBBO TOUCH ASSOCIATION INC.

INCORPORATION No. Y0672816

ABN. 19 048 935 817

E dubbotouch@hotmail.com

PO BOX 1198, Dubbo NSW 2830

Dubbo Touch Association - Weather Policy

Purpose of Policy

To provide a guideline for Dubbo Touch Association (DTA) to ensure that competition officials know their respective duties and obligations when considering the safety of individuals (players, coaches, referees, affiliates and spectators) when exercising in hot or hazardous conditions.

To minimise the risk of any injuries or harm to individuals, while ensuring that the number of games cancelled can be kept at a minimum. This harm may be the result of heat exhaustion, dehydration, sunburn, asthma, breathing difficulties etc.

Implementation

This policy may be used for any local or representative competition and training sessions hosted by DTA.

The following is adopted from the NSW Touch 'Hot Weather Policy':-

Temperature recorded for Dubbo NSW	Risk of Injury
25-31	Moderate
32-37	High
38 and above	Extreme

When the temperature recorded at the DTA Clubhouse is 40 degrees or in excess of 40 degrees, the decision as to game cancellation will automatically revert to competition director/s. In the event games are cancelled, a decision will be advertised on social media as soon as practicable, but no later than 5.30pm (or 30 minutes prior to the competition commencing).

Where there is a general concern as to 'Extreme' heat, the competition director/s may elect to divide games into shorter playing periods to allow for extra breaks for individuals involved in games. Either shall be signaled by an additional hooter or at the referee's discretion.



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During a match with 'High' risk, players may request that the referee calls a 'drinks break', such occurrence to take no longer than two (2) minutes in duration. This is the referee's discretion and shall be monitored by game referees.

The following table should be adopted when assessing air quality:-

Air Quality Index (AQI)	Colour indicator	What does it mean?
0-33	Very good	Enjoy normal activities.
34-66	Good	Enjoy normal activities.
67-99	Fair	People unusually sensitive to air pollution should reduce or reschedule strenuous outdoor activities. Others are not likely to be affected when the AQI is in this range.
100-149	Poor	Sensitive groups should reduce or reschedule strenuous outdoor activities. Other adults are not likely to be affected when the AQI is in this range.
150-199	Very poor	Sensitive groups should avoid strenuous outdoor activities. Other adults should reduce or reschedule strenuous outdoor activities.
200+	Hazardous	Sensitive groups should avoid all outdoor activities. Other adults should avoid strenuous outdoor activities.

Source: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/air/Pages/aqi.aspx>

To assess air quality, the competition director or other member of the DTA committee should rely on the air quality index data provided by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (or other appropriate site).



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When the AQI for the 'Central Tablelands' is above 100 at 5.30pm (or 30 minutes prior to the commencement of play) on the date of competition, the competition director shall be at liberty to postpone or cancel play. If the AQI reaches the 'Hazardous' condition level, all play shall be abandoned.

Any committee member may raise a concern as to the weather conditions and/or air quality forecast during game play. This should be addressed to the competition director in the first instance. Should the competition director be of the view that a delay in play may provide an opportunity for the weather issue to be resolved, they may do so at their discretion without formal notice to players.

Guidelines

- The President shall be responsible for making a ruling on any point in dispute in this policy and should be guided by the NSW Touch 'Weather Policy' or relevant amendments.
- In addition to the above, other general preventative measures should be taken, such as the provision of shade, hats, sunscreen and drinking water. It is noted that drinking water is available on the western side of the DTA clubhouse and cold water may be purchased.
- This Policy is used as a guide only, and should not replace the professional advice of any medical staff.

For any questions, please contact the DTA Secretary:
info@dubbotouch.com