

# Heat & Inclement Weather Policy

## 1. POLICY STATEMENT

Disability Recreation and Sports SA has a responsibility to ensure the health and wellbeing of staff, volunteers, players and officials in accordance with requirements under the Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Act 1986. All employees of the Association have a responsibility under the above Act to ensure that they take reasonable care to protect their own health and safety and that of others whilst in the workplace. In fulfilling this responsibility, all members have a duty to provide and maintain an environment that is safe and without risks to health.

In line with this DRSSA has implemented the following heat policy to prevent injury, and possible death, from heat illness by recognising and managing potentially dangerous heat situations.

In the event of the duties of any member of staff necessitating that person working in the open, the following is to apply.

- Sunscreen, sunglasses hats etc. are to be worn when working in unshaded areas. Suitable protective clothing is to be worn at all times.
- Water is to be carried whenever possible. If this is not practicable for whatever reason, steps are to be taken to ensure adequate amounts of water are consumed at regular intervals of not more than 30 minutes.
- If the forecast temperature for any day is 35°C or higher, staff are not to work in the open.
- All staff should use wet weather clothing or at least an umbrella if working outside during rain periods.
- No Association staff should work in the open during severe storm conditions and particularly during electrical storms. If a member of staff is caught in such a storm, they should seek shelter immediately or return to their motor vehicle and wait for the storm to pass. If the conditions persist, cease work for the day.
- Staff should refrain from using telephones during severe electrical storms.

DRS recognises that the risk of an elevated body temperature from high intensity sport in a hot environment is significant, and can lead to heat illness presented as heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

Therefore staff shall check the temperature forecast one day prior to every competition, as published by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology. Information is to be obtained from:-

[www.bom.gov.au/sa/forecasts/adelaide.shtml](http://www.bom.gov.au/sa/forecasts/adelaide.shtml)

If the temperature in Adelaide, or if located in a regional area, the regional temp., is forecasted to be 33 degrees Celsius or greater the competition may be cancelled, rescheduled or revised at the discretion of the event coordinator or team manager.

If the temperature is forecasted to be 35 degrees Celsius or greater for junior competitions or competitions involving quadriplegics or participants whose disability means they will be adversely effected by hot weather, the competition will be cancelled.

If the temperature in Adelaide, or if located in a regional area, the regional forecast, is forecasted to be 38 degrees or greater all competitions will be cancelled.

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Daryl Taylor, President

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