



Ballarat Cricket Association Policy 5

WEATHER

This policy is based on BCA Rule 6.4 - The grounds on which the matches shall be played shall be arranged by the PC and they may, if necessary, alter the programme in respect of dates or grounds on which any of the matches shall be played.

The Ballarat Cricket Association (BCA) Pennant Committee (PC), in consultation with the BCA Grounds Committee (GC) and all other associated ground staff, are charged with making the decision on any cancellations of play prior to the scheduled start times. This applies to both Senior and Junior cricket matches. The playing of matches due to weather will be based upon a common-sense approach as to play as much cricket as is possible under the prevailing conditions. Player safety is always the BCA priority in consideration of play on days of wet/hot weather. The BCA PC reserves the right to cancel all, or some matches regardless of any match status or playing day (e.g. 2nd week of a two-day match).

For junior matches, the BCA PC will decide on play by 2:30pm (Weekday) and 7:30am (Saturday). For senior matches, the BCA PC will decide on play by 10.00am on the morning of scheduled play. Players and teams will be notified through local radio stations 3BA, Power FM, social media, and email to Club Executives if play has been abandoned.

WET WEATHER

It is the responsibility of the Umpires and Captains to refer to the WeatherZone App on a smartphone or tablet, referencing the location the match is being played immediately before play is due to commence to see if further rain is imminent in the immediate area.

Captains and Umpires should consider the following.

- Is it safe for players to play in the conditions? Is it dangerous for play to continue?
- Is it still raining?
- Is the rain misty/light/heavy? (Once players leave the ground for rain, play can resume once it is deemed fit for play. The rain does **NOT** have to be stopped completely.)
- According to the radar, is further rain possible?
- Are there any puddles or very wet areas obvious on the ground and run-ups?
- Are players able to stand-up when fielding a ball?
- Are the bowler's run-ups causing concern?
- What is the light like? Is it fading and becoming quite dark?
- Once play is underway, common sense should prevail on whether play should continue, always taking into consideration player safety.

The WeatherZone App provides you with a radar picture with settings of 64km, 128km, 256km and State level of the predicted weather over the next 30-120 minutes at intervals of 6 minutes.



HOT WEATHER

Seniors

On a day of extreme heat, the following rules apply with respect to play taking place:

1. It is the responsibility of the umpires and captains to refer to the Weatherzone App on a smartphone or tablet, referencing the location the match is being played immediately before play is due to commence to see if the temperature has reached 40 degrees.
2. If the temperature as recorded in your designated zone is 40 degrees or more, then play shall not commence.
3. Play shall not commence until the recorded temperature falls below 40 degrees.

Once play commences:

1. It is the responsibility of umpires and captains (where no umpires are present) to check every half hour to see if the temperature has reached 40 degrees or higher. This should be done every 30 minutes from the start of play via the Weatherzone App using your most relevant location.
2. If the temperature as recorded in your designated zone is 40 degrees or more, then play shall cease immediately.
3. Play shall not recommence until the recorded temperature falls below 40 degrees.
4. Any delay or interruption to play shall be treated in the usual way and the applicable match rules apply. Specifically, refer to rules regarding reduction of overs and normal conditions.
5. If the temperature reaches 40 degrees and play is delayed, under our match rules, the captains can agree to abandon play on the basis that the conditions are unfit for play to continue.
6. Where the captains disagree, and there is no umpire, then the teams remain until the temperature falls below 40 degrees, they agree or 6pm arrives.

Juniors

Temperatures up to and including 30 degrees will see no enforced changes to match schedules or formats but it is advised that junior coaches and umpires take adequate steps to ensure player safety as above.

Temperatures reaching between 31 and 35 degrees will see the following changes.

1. Drinks breaks to be taken at 10 overs for T20 matches and 12/13 overs for 25/25 or 50 over matches off the ground in available shade.
2. Drinks to be kept on the field by umpires as required.
3. Consideration of rotating fielders frequently and reducing batting time.

Temperatures forecast to reach 35.1 degrees or higher at any point during a JUNIOR match will see either a reduction of playing time to avoid the peak heat period or total cancellation of the round.

Weatherzone Weather Forecast

Temperatures are to be taken from the 'Weatherzone' mobile app only. All BCA matches fall within the bounds of the Ballarat Airport temperature reading other than the following grounds:



Ballan & Elaine Cricket Grounds - Reading taken from 'Sheoaks'. Reading available by selecting Ballarat as the main reading point then scrolling to the right with the arrow as displayed.



Darley Park, Darley Civic Hub & Masons Lane Cricket Grounds - Reading taken from Melbourne Airport.





The table below outlines information supplied by Sports Medicine Australia and forms the basis of the above guidelines and actions.

» **Ambient temperature**

Easily understood, most useful on hot, dry days.

Ambient temperature °C	Relative humidity	Risk of heat illness	Recommended management for sports activities
15 - 20		Low	Heat illness can occur in running Caution over-motivation
21 - 25	Exceeds 70%	Low - moderate	Increase vigilance Caution over-motivation
26 - 30	Exceeds 60%	Moderate - high	Moderate early pre-season training Reduce intensity and duration of play/training Take more breaks
31 - 35	Exceeds 50%	High - very high	Uncomfortable for most people Limit intensity, take more breaks Limit duration to less than 60 minutes
36 and above	Exceeds 30%	Extreme	Very stressful for most people Postpone to cooler conditions (or cooler part of the day) or cancel

» **Heat stress increases with increases in air temperature but be aware that there are not clear demarcations in risk between temperature ranges. At relative humidity levels above those indicated in the table, stress increases markedly.**