



VICTORIAN AMATEUR FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

VAF A EXTREME WEATHER POLICY

Extreme weather and environmental factors can affect the playing of Australian Football. This policy sets out the approach that the VAF A adopts when assessing extreme weather and environmental conditions.

Heat

Heat-related stress can lead to impaired player performance and physical distress including dizziness, headaches, collapse and illness. In extreme cases heat can be life threatening. To prevent and manage heat stress, careful planning and preparation is required.

The VAF A takes the health and wellbeing of its players, coaches, officials and volunteers very seriously and the following information outlines the elements of the VAF A's strategy to prevent heat stress in match conditions:

- When temperatures are forecast between 32 and below 36 degrees at the scheduled commencement of the match (as per <http://www.bom.gov.au/>), clubs and umpires will be notified by no later than 5pm on the Thursday via the VAF A website and VAF A Portal that the VAF A Extreme Weather Policy may be implemented.
- If required, a formal announcement will be made via the VAF A website and VAF A Portal between 9.30am and 11.00am on the day of the match advising clubs and umpires that the VAF A Extreme Weather Policy is to be adhered to and the following changes shall be applied based on the below tables:

Updated: March 2023
Review Date: Annually

Men's Seniors

	VAF A Rules	Extreme Weather Policy Changes
Quarter Lengths	20 minutes plus time on	17 minutes plus time on
Half Time Break	Fifteen (15) minutes	Twenty (20) minutes
Three-Quarter Time Break	Seven (7) minutes	Ten (10) minutes

Men's Under 19's, Reserves and Thirds

	VAF A Rules	Extreme Weather Policy Changes
Quarter Lengths	25 minutes with no time-on	25 minutes with no time-on
Half Time Break	Fifteen (15) minutes	Twenty (20) minutes
Three-Quarter Time Break	Seven (7) minutes	Ten (10) minutes

Women's and Masters

	VAF A Rules	Extreme Weather Policy Changes
Quarter Lengths	20 minutes with no time-on	17 minutes with no time-on
Half Time Break	Fifteen (15) minutes	Twenty (20) minutes
Three-Quarter Time Break	Seven (7) minutes	Ten (10) minutes

If the temperature is equal to, or greater than 36 degrees at the scheduled commencement of the match, the match shall be cancelled.

If the match is cancelled and unable to commence due to excessive heat conditions (as determined by VAF A Football Operations), the VAF A General Manager – Football & Umpiring shall determine how the premiership points for the match shall be allocated.

Lightning

In the event of lightning being present in the immediate proximity of the venue during the course of the match, play shall be stopped by an officiating field umpire and all involved parties are to return indoors.

Officiating umpires are to refer to Law 11.1.2 (Incomplete Match) of the AFL Laws of the Game when determining if/when a match can recommence.