



THA WEATHER POLICY AND PROCEDURES

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1. WEATHER POLICY

The decision to postpone or abandon games due to inclement weather shall be made by three people including the fixture portfolio incumbent (or assistant) as well as any two members of either the Toowoomba Hockey Committee or the Board of Directors.

See section 4.3.2 of the THA By-Laws for further details. Advice may be sought from the Groundsman and/or THA Coaching Staff prior to making any decision.

Match Directors (or Umpires if no Match Director is present) have the ability to suspend play due to inclement weather during, or immediately prior to, games in which they are officiating. Refer to Section 2.5 of the THA Playing Rules for information regarding time off during competition fixture games.

The decision to close grass fields for training will be taken by the Groundsman, who will inform Club Glenvale staff. They will then contact the relevant officials (President, Registrar) of clubs allocated training times during that day.

The decision to close grass or turf fields during training will be taken by Toowoomba Hockey coaching staff or senior officials of clubs involved.

1.1 Wet Weather

1.1.1 THA requests and expects that all players and club officials to take due care when competing in wet conditions. Please ensure all players and officials compete with adequate equipment, particularly footwear, to cope with wet and slippery conditions.

1.1.2 Grass Fixtures

If significant rain has occurred on the day before and/or overnight (or in the case of continual heavy rain, in the few days preceding) a Fixture Portfolio representative will convene a meeting (in person or by phone) with two other representatives of the Toowoomba Hockey Committee or Board of Directors to discuss whether fixtures need to be called off.

The fixture portfolio representative or delegate will visually inspect all fields.

Check weather forecasts for the day (www.weather.com.au/qld/toowoomba) or (www.bom.gov.au/qld/).

Discussions will then determine:

- a) What fields, if any, are unplayable or may become unplayable
- b) If games will be played on all or only selected fields
- c) If games are to be played on some fields, which fields can be used.
- d) What fixtures (juniors, certain age groups only, seniors etc.) are to be called off.
- e) At what time will any decision be reassessed.

An initial decision will need to be made by 8am.

Should a decision to cancel games be made, the Chairman of the Toowoomba Hockey Committee, Club Glenvale staff, Club Presidents and Registrars (or Secretaries if others are unavailable) are to be informed as soon as possible (list of contacts – to be updated yearly).

Detailed information regarding any decision will be placed on the THA web site. (www.toowoombahockey.com.au/).

It is the responsibility of individual clubs to have an appropriate policy in place to advise all their members of game cancellations.

If possible, postponed games will be re-scheduled as per By-Law 4.3.2.

1.1.3 Turf Fixtures

Turf fixtures may be abandoned if the artificial surfaces become too dangerous for play due to too much water remaining on the surface or the surface becoming too slippery or damaged. Decisions will be made and enacted as detailed under grass fixtures.

During, or just prior to, a game, this will be at the discretion of the officiating Match Director and or Umpires.



1.2 Lightning

- 1.2.1 No fixtures will be conducted when lightning is in close proximity to the venue – all matches must be suspended during this time. Play should be stopped when lightning flashes are noted to occur between 15 and 30 seconds prior the sound of thunder and not resumed until considered safe. This will be at the discretion of the officiating Match Director and or Umpires.

1.3 Hot Weather

- 1.3.1 THA requests all club officials to take due care when teams are competing in hot and/or humid conditions. Playing Rules allow for unlimited interchange for 16 players (11 taking the field at any one time) and this interchange system should be utilised to ensure all players remain well hydrated. Clubs have a responsibility to ensure all players are aware of the pre, during and post game hydrations needs of hockey players and monitor this, particularly with junior athletes.
- 1.3.2 Additional drinks breaks may be taken, on the discretion of Match Directors or Umpires after consultation with team officials prior to the commencement of the game or at half-time. No extra time will be allocated for additional drinks breaks and this will mean a reduction in playing time. The break will occur at the half-way point of a half, with umpires stoping the game at a convenient break in play. The drink break must not take longer than 2 minutes. Play will resume on the umpires whistle and be restarted based on the decision made by the umpires prior to the drinks break.

1.4 Fog

- 1.4.1 If fog is sufficiently thick as to impede vision and this is felt to be enough to impact on the safety of players, the game will be suspended. This will be at the discretion of the officiating Match Director and or Umpires.



2. PROCEDURES TO CANCEL FIXTURES DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the event of fixtures being cancelled due to inclement weather or other unforeseen event the following communications will be employed:

- a) Text message will be sent to club nominated representatives;
- b) Telephone call to club nominated representatives (message will be left if no answer);
- c) Email to be sent to all affiliated club executives;
- d) Change field status on the Toowoomba Hockey Association website;
- e) Contact teams travelling to Toowoomba.

Procedures for the above actions can be located at Reception and only authorised personnel from the Toowoomba Hockey Committee and Board of Directors are to carry out these actions.

If the decision is made to cancel games no less than one (1) hour notice will be given to respective teams where possible.

Due consideration will be given to whether the grass or artificial surface is deemed too dangerous to play on and what damage playing on the surfaces will do to our facilities in the long term.

If grass games are cancelled for juniors then all junior games (grass and artificial surfaces) are to be cancelled up to and including J1. Seniors will be assessed on a case by case basis.

Should fixtures be cancelled due to inclement weather refer to THA By-Law 4.3.2.



3. GOVERNANCE

3.1 Responsibility

Policy Owner	THA Board of Directors
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3.2 Version Control And Change History

Version Number	Approval Date	Approved by	Amendment
1	07/06/2011	THA Board of Directors	

3.3 Policy And Procedure Directory

Category
1. Hockey Administration