



Unfavourable weather policy Version 1.1

The purpose of this document is to specify the clubs unfavourable weather policy as it pertains to club training and club events.

The policy broadly follows the Athletics Victoria “unfavourable weather guidelines” which are included at the rear of this document.

It is recognised that weather conditions, duration of a weather or athletics event, the likely impact of a weather event, may vary and a prescriptive policy is not proposed. Rather, the principal decision makers are to apply the principle of safety first.

Weather during club training and club events.

High temperatures:

- No training or club events to be conducted if the temperature is over 35 degrees Celsius.
- Under 35 degrees but hot, training to be conducted in the shade and distances of running and effort reduced.

Low temperatures:

Generally not a problem to sprinters and longer distance types consider it a part of the winter environment. Throwers utilising metal implements and jumpers with wet sand may not be so enthusiastic. All athletes should ensure that appropriate clothing is worn during training/competition and warm clothing is available at the end of training competition.

Rain:

A very subjective situation as many long distance runners like running in the rain. Safety first, take into consideration the temperature, the length of the run and conditions underfoot. Ensure that appropriate clothing is worn during training and competition.

High winds:

If high winds are present ensure that training is kept away from large trees and any items that may be propelled by the wind.

Lightning:

Training is not to be conducted outdoors if there is local lightning.

The time between seeing a bolt of lightning and hearing any thunder gives an idea of the distance of the lightning from the observer. TEN (10) seconds is around 3 kilometres.

Members responsibilities:

It is the club members responsibility to:

- Provide themselves with appropriate clothing for the weather.
- Provide appropriate drinks and food for the weather.
- Provide appropriate personal protection..

Athletics Victoria unfavourable weather guidelines:

The following is provided as a guide for members, clubs and other participants, conducting and participating in athletics events.

These guidelines are not binding, but Athletics Victoria reminds all parties that they should act responsibly.

Athletics Victoria also encourages everyone involved in the sport to be conscious of their own personal health and safety at all times.

Cancellation and suspension of events;

Every club and region within Victoria is encouraged to develop their own guidelines for dealing with unfavourable weather conditions and a process for informing or notifying their members and other participants.

Where participant, official or spectator safety is considered at risk, event(s) may be cancelled or suspended. This might relate to an entire meeting programme or elements thereof (e.g. hurdles; high jump).

Conditions which might cause events to be cancelled, suspended or modified include:

- Extreme temperatures
- Fog
- Frost, hail and ice
- Flooding
- Snow
- Strong winds
- Thunder storm (lightning)
- Torrential rain

It is recognised that conditions, duration, impact, etc may vary from venue to venue and a prescriptive policy is not proposed. Rather, Athletics Victoria encourages decision makers to apply the principle of safety first – while also looking to minimise any inconvenience caused to travelling participants.

Common sense will apply at all times and athletes and other participants should always be conscious of the likelihood of unfavourable weather impacting events. Accordingly, participants should familiarise themselves with where and how to obtain relevant information (e.g. Athletics Victoria website).