

Extreme Weather Policy

Preamble:

The Dubbo Golf Club (DGC) extreme conditions weather policy has been introduced to provide guidelines for playing conditions that may impact the health and wellbeing of players, volunteers and staff working on the course.

The policy addresses extreme weather conditions, including heat, lightning, strong winds or impending danger associated with a weather event that may cause harm or injury to persons exposed to these conditions.

In circumstances of extreme hot weather conditions, an assessment of such will be undertaken with reference to temperature and humidity information provided by the Bureau of Meteorology.

A decision by the golf club personnel may result in golfing events being cancelled, postponed or modified due to an extreme weather classification. The following policy supports golf club staff, members and guests during such occurrences.

Definition:

Extreme weather: *natural weather conditions that threaten the immediate or long-term safety of individuals, including rain, lightning, wind and heat.*

Player's personal safety:

It is a condition of entry to the Dubbo Golf Club that each person using or attending the course or any of the associated facilities, including members, non-members, players and non-players alike, take personal responsibility for their own safety on the course during extreme weather conditions.

In the event of extreme weather conditions being forecast, members and visitors are advised to reconsider their need to play. Any decision to play will be the sole responsibility of each player.

Extreme weather conditions impact on golfing events

The following conditions may impact the flow of a scheduled golfing event on the course:

1. Forecast and non-forecast (sudden) events of extreme heat, strong winds, heavy rain/hail
2. Lightning
3. Fog

1. Forecast and non-forecast extreme weather conditions:

The Club delegates will source the "BOM Weather" app to determine sourcing temperature and other weather data from the nearest weather station information provided by the Bureau of Meteorology. The "Feels like" temperature will be used to determine that temperatures beyond 42 degrees Celsius will be considered as extreme for playing conditions.

2. Lightning:

During an electrical storm, no place is absolutely safe from lightning, but some places tend to be safer than others. Within the boundaries of Dubbo Golf Club, anyone in the open is at the highest risk of injury from lightning. The main clubhouse and Proshop provide the safest protection, followed by the toilet facilities on course if this is not possible.

10 kilometre/30 second Alert = Dangerous Situation

It takes 30 seconds for thunder associated with a lightning event 10km away to be heard. The Club considers the risk to golfers to be unacceptable once an event has reached the 10km threshold.

30 minute Resumption of play:

Once evidence of thunder or lightning has been absent for 30 minutes, the dangerous situation is considered to no longer exist.

3. Fog conditions:

Play will not commence or will be suspended if the flag on the 18th hole is not visible from the Western corner of the clubhouse, adjacent to the Pro Shop.

- If the fog sets in after 8am, a siren consisting of one fifteen (15) second blast will sound to indicate suspension of play.
- On resumption of play, players must ensure the group in front, or any grounds staff are not within hitting range before playing a stroke.

Suspension/cancellation of play:

Whilst every effort will be made to ensure the safety of players during extreme weather events, this policy serves as a guideline to players by which they will be requested to cease/postpone their play under the conditions identified and communicated, including:

- The suspension or cancellation of play for a golfing event due to an extreme weather circumstance will be determined, and will be at the discretion of the General Manager of DGC, Club Captain, and/or Golf Professional.
- If an extreme weather circumstance (defined above) be deemed to affect players in adverse conditions, the course may be closed for a short period of time (suspended play) or closed for the remainder of the event (cancelled play).
- Any player may withdraw either before or during the event at their own discretion and for their own safety.
- Should the event of the day be of a significant nature (eg. Championship, Monthly Medal etc), the event will be postponed to a date to be determined by the Match Committee/Club Captain.

Course Warning Sirens:

Siren #1: Prolonged continuous siren – cease play immediately. Mark your ball and proceed to the clubhouse without delay.

Siren # 2: Two short consecutive blasts repeated – resume play from marked position and continue with your round.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. How will players identify if play is suspended or cancelled due to extreme weather?

Should a decision be made by the General Manager/Club Captain/Golf professional (or their nominee) to suspend play due to extreme weather conditions, a **siren consisting of one fifteen (15) second blast** will be sounded to indicate that play has been suspended.

Dubbo Golf Club cannot guarantee that the siren will be audible to all players on the course. Players must take personal responsibility and steps for their own safety.

2. What do players need to do in the event of a siren?

- Players **MUST** stop immediately, mark their ball, and must not re-commence play until advised. Players must make their way back to the Clubhouse, exercising extreme caution for their safety.
- Players **MUST** wait in the safety of the clubhouse until a decision to re-commence play, or cancellation of play is made by the nominated Club representatives.
- Any player who fails to discontinue play immediately they hear the siren indicating a dangerous situation may face disqualification from the competition.

As provided in the Rules of Golf, even if the play has not yet been suspended, or if a player is not aware play has been suspended, any player is permitted to discontinue play without penalty if he/she believes there is danger from events such as lightning and should report your decision to suspend play to the Golf Professional.

3. When can a player resume play?

The decision for play to resume will be determined by the General Manager/Club Captain/Golf professional (or their nominee). This will be indicated by **two short blasts of the siren, repeated three (3) times**, with a pause in-between.

Players can return to their marked ball on the course and resume to complete the competition round without any penalty.

4. What happens to player's scorecards if play is suspended or cancelled?

- **Resumption of play** = score cards will continue as per the competition rules. Players will return to their marked balls on the field and continue their game until all competition holes are played.
- **Cancellation of play** = scorecard and handicap record will be marked as "No Score Approved".
- **Disqualification** = if a player elects to abandon their round and not return to the competition game, their scorecard and handicap record may be marked "No Score Not Approved".

5. What happens to player's competition fees if play is cancelled by the Club?

Generally, once a player tees off (in rain or similar conditions) there will be no refunds on their competition fees paid. However, should the starter (or nominated Club delegates) deem it necessary to close the course during play, and play is not resumed, a credit for the competition fee paid may be refunded to the players trophy account at the discretion of the Match Committee.

6. What is the policy for social play during extreme weather? Social play is also subject to extreme weather policies. Players engaging in social play are encouraged to consider the weather forecast before booking or commencing their round. Personal safety and judgment should guide decisions to play under extreme conditions.

- In the event that the course is closed due to extreme weather conditions (including rain, lightning, or other hazards), no refund will be provided for social fees paid. This includes instances where social play is interrupted or cannot proceed.
- Social players are reminded to take shelter in the clubhouse or other safe facilities during dangerous weather conditions. The Club will not be held responsible for any personal decisions made by players to remain on the course during adverse weather.

Please note: NO refunds will be returned to players credit cards or cash refunded via the Pro Shop.