



EXTREME WEATHER PROCEDURES

1. OVERVIEW

Korfball SA is committed to the safety and well-being of its members and those playing korfball throughout South Australia. The following procedures have been developed in relation to the conduct of the game of Korfball under extreme weather conditions.

These procedures are recommended for adoption or use as a guide by the controlling body of a korfball activity, i.e. Member Clubs, Associations and Regions. In all circumstances the controlling body is responsible and urged to ensure duty of care of participants, coaches, referees and spectators; and to exercise caution and monitor weather conditions before commencing, continuing or terminating korfball activities.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of these procedures is to assist members of Korfball SA in their awareness and decision making in times of adverse wet weather or extreme heat conditions. It is preferable that korfball activities are not cancelled, however, if the weather conditions are extreme and conditions become dangerous to participants, it is in the best interests to postpone or cancel activities. Safety of participants is paramount. It is recommended these procedures be read in conjunction with Sports Medicine Australia's "Hot Weather Guidelines for Sporting Clubs and Associations".

3. SCOPE

This procedure applies to the whole of Korfball South Australia.

4. PROCEDURES

Due to changeable weather conditions, the decision to postpone or cancel korfball activities should be made carefully and on the day of play if possible, to ensure participants are given every opportunity to play korfball.

Should a decision be made to postpone or cancel korfball activities, every attempt should be made by Associations and Clubs to communicate changes to those affected as quickly as possible.

Hot Weather (Indoor & outdoor competitions)

In times of very hot weather, start times of games or other korfball activities may be delayed or cancelled. Shorter game periods and more drink breaks may be allowed.

Catastrophic Fire Danger

In the event of a day of Catastrophic Fire Danger (100+ reading), it is recommended that all korfball activities in the area affected be cancelled. This clause will override any guidelines contained within this document.

Wet Weather (Outdoor competitions)

When severe weather is forecast, Associations and clubs should initiate procedures and monitor weather reports. Based on information received from local and state weather authorities a decision may be made to cancel activities. Consideration needs to be given too many factors including:

- Amount and intensity of rain
- Thunderstorm activity with lightning
- Water volumes on courts
- Lack of grip on courts
- Player age level on court

Once play has commenced, and in accordance with the Official Rules of Korfball, the referee may stop play on their court in times of extreme weather. The referee shall decide the length of time for the stoppage and shall ensure that play is re-started as soon as possible.

Lightning & Hail Guidelines (Outdoor competitions)

When safety is compromised with hail or electrical storms, the referee will immediately stop play or activity and follow the guidelines for protection against lightning strikes as listed.

Hail

All play or activity must immediately cease if there is hail. All persons should seek immediate cover.

Lightning

Korfball SA's lightning safety code is based on the 30/30 rule which calls for all play to be stopped when the lightning to thunder ratio reaches 30 seconds or less (i.e. the time between when the lightning is seen and the thunder is heard, is 30 seconds or less).

When the 30 second ratio has been reached, this means that the lightning seen is approximately 10km away and the next strike has a "significant risk" of hitting the people who have seen the lightning and heard the thunder. All participants must be aware that in the event of lightning, play must not resume until 30 minutes after the last lightning strike and thunder.

Should weather conditions fail to improve, the game shall be cancelled at the discretion of the controlling body.

Match Results

Where a match is cancelled, it is at the discretion of the governing Association and competition rules to decide the result of a match or whether it will be rescheduled for replay at a later time.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES

Irrespective of the predicted maximum temperature, coaches, team managers and referees should adopt the following as appropriate, in cases of hot weather:

5.1 Coaches should:

- Ascertain whether any players have known medical conditions which may be affected by heat.
- Ensure that players take adequate fluid during the game.
- Be alert and react to any signs of distress/potential distress in players.
- Make substitutions as appropriate.
- Utilise available time-outs.

5.2 Referees should:

- Call additional time-outs
- Extend break between playing periods

5.3 Team manager should:

- Ensure that players take adequate fluid before, during and after the game.
- Be alert and react to any signs of distress/potential distress in players.
- Ascertain whether any players have known medical conditions which may be affected by heat.

No-one should ever feel as though they must play if they believe it is unsafe or they are feeling distressed.

Refer to Korfbal South Australia's Hot Weather Policy.

6. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

Hot Weather Policy

7. REFERENCES

Sports Medicine Australia – Hot Weather guidelines www.sma.org.au