

ADVERSE WEATHER POLICY

INTRODUCTION

Ballarat Associated Schools Inc. (hereinafter referred to as 'BAS') is committed to organising and strengthening interschool activities to provide opportunities for Member Schools to cultivate friendship, fair play, co-operation and healthy competition. At times this includes activities which may be impacted by adverse weather conditions.

Due to the variety of sports played in a variety of locations the Committee identified the need to develop an *Adverse Weather Policy* to ensure they are fulfilling their obligations and duty of care requirements to the participants, staff, supporters and the broader community.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure a consistent and risk aware approach is taken for holding activities during adverse weather conditions, including but not limited to heat, hail, air quality, wind and storms.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all activities organised or scheduled by BAS with the exception of Head of the Lake. Details relating to Head of the Lake are outlined in Annexure '2'.

DEFINITIONS

<i>Adverse Weather</i>	means weather that could cause harm or damage.
<i>Activity</i>	means a recreational pursuit or pastime and for the purpose of this policy may include events.
<i>Host School</i>	means <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For internal venues, the Member School who is under control of the venue. - For external venues, the Member School who is the first named team in the fixture.
<i>Relative humidity</i>	measures the amount of water vapor in the air, expressed as a percentage of the maximum amount of water vapor the air can hold at a given temperature. It essentially tells you how close the air is to being saturated, meaning it can't hold any more moisture. Warmer air can hold more water vapor than cooler air, so a higher temperature will result in lower relative humidity, even if the absolute amount of water vapor remains the same.
<i>The Committee</i>	means the Board of Ballarat Associated Schools Inc. Committee which has appointed in accordance with the Rules.
<i>Sports Co-ordinator</i>	means the employee of the Member School who oversees and/or manages sport for the Member School.

DETAIL

Part 1- Responsibilities

1. It is the responsibility of the Committee to ensure this policy is enacted and implemented for all activities organised or scheduled by BAS.
2. It is the responsibility of the Head of each Member School to ensure their Sports Co-ordinator is able to implement this policy and participates in the policy review.

3. It is the responsibility of the host school to facilitate all necessary communication required to enact this policy, as required.

Part 2- Procedure

1. The following procedure must be followed for all activities organised or scheduled by BAS:
 - 1.1 Adverse weather conditions relevant to the activity should be included as part of the initial risk assessment for the activity. This includes but is not limited to heat, hail, air quality, wind and storms.
 - 1.2 The host school must nominate a member of staff to monitor the Bureau of Meteorology (hereinafter referred to as 'BoM') forecast or other reasonable app agreed by the Committee. If there is not a host school for the activity, the event organiser must ensure a member of staff is nominated to monitor the forecast.
 - 1.3 The day prior to the activity the host school or event organiser should complete the following:
 - 1.3.1 Check the predicted weather forecast in the event area as provided by BoM or other agreed app.
 - 1.3.2 If BoM or other agreed app has predicted any potential adverse weather, the host school and/or the event organiser should communicate this prediction with the BAS Executive Officer, who will liaise with the Committee as required.
 - 1.3.3 The BAS Executive Officer and the Committee (if required) should review the initial risk assessment, taking into consideration the updated information and the effect that it may have on the activity. This should include but not be limited to the following factors:
 - 1.3.3.1 The sports risk classification (see Annexure 1).
 - 1.3.3.2 The location of the event.
 - 1.3.3.3 Whether the event is to be held inside or outside.
 - 1.3.3.4 The facilities available at the event location.
 - 1.3.3.5 The impact the weather may have on any marshals, volunteers or staff necessary to run the activity.
 - 1.3.3.6 How participants and staff are being transported to the event.
 - 1.3.3.7 The age and ability of the students participating.
 - 1.3.3.8 Any further material factors based on the activity.
 - 1.3.3.9 Lastly, any impact of the activity being postponed or cancelled.
 - 1.3.4 If it is decided that the event and/or activity is to proceed as scheduled, the Executive Officer and the Committee (if necessary) are to continue to closely monitor BoM or other agreed app and the forecast adverse weather conditions.
 - 1.4 On the day of the activity the host school and/or event organiser should complete the following:
 - 1.4.1 Continue to closely monitor the weather forecast provided by BoM or other agreed app.
 - 1.4.2 If BoM or other agreed app has predicted any potential adverse weather, the host school and/or the event organiser should communicate this prediction with the BAS Executive Officer and the Committee as soon as circumstances permit.
 - 1.4.3 The BAS Executive Officer and the Committee should communicate regarding the forecast and the effect that it may have on the activity. This should include but not be limited to the factors outlined in clause 1.3.3 above.
 - 1.5 BAS recognises that individual responses to weather conditions vary between each person. Each activity will therefore be considered on an individual basis. In completing a risk assessment as part of

the decision-making process regarding whether an activity should take place, the following factors must be considered:

1.5.1 Heat

- 1.5.1.1 When the ambient temperature reaches 26 degrees Celsius, risk mitigation strategies must be implemented (i.e. water available, uniform considered etc.).
- 1.5.1.2 When the ambient temperature reaches 31 degrees Celsius, intensity should be limited and duration should be less than 60 minutes per session.
- 1.5.1.3 When the ambient temperature reaches 36 degrees Celsius, postponement to a cooler part of the day or cancellation should be considered.

1.5.2 Storms (Including hail and electrical storms)

- 1.5.2.1 When storms occur, all individuals involved in the activity should seek immediate safe shelter.
- 1.5.2.2 When lightning occurs, if the activity is scheduled outside, the playing field must be cleared if the storm is determined to be within 10km.
- 1.5.2.3 The activity should only resume if at least 30 minutes has past since the storm and the host school and/or event organiser are confident regarding the safety of all individuals.

1.5.3 Wind

- 1.5.3.1 For all outdoor events, the host school and/or event organiser should monitor BOM or other agreed app and be aware that wind speeds provided are averages and can be 40% stronger than provided.
- 1.5.3.2 When strong winds averaging 48- 61 km per hour are predicted by BOM or other agreed app the host school and/or event organiser must implement risk management strategies to ensure relevant risk factors are minimised (i.e. Disallowing the use of structures and loose objects, altering the course to increase protection etc.).
- 1.5.3.3 When gale winds averaging 62- 87 km per hour are predicted the host school and/or event organiser must implement substantial risk management strategies (i.e. moving the activity indoors) or strongly consider postponing the activity.
- 1.5.3.4 When Storm warnings of 88 km per hour or more are predicted the host school and/or event organiser must strongly consider postponing the activity.

1.5.4 Air Quality

- 1.5.4.1 When the PM 2.5 Air Quality is classified by the Environment Protection Authority Victoria (hereinafter referred to as EPA) is classified as fair, host schools need to be aware that those sensitive to air pollution may need to reduce prolonged high intensity endurance activities, if they develop symptoms, and follow their management plan.
- 1.5.4.2 When the PM 2.5 Air Quality is classified by the EPA as poor, host school and/or event organiser must implement risk management strategies to ensure relevant risk factors are minimised. These may include but are not limited to the following:
 - 1.5.4.2.1 reducing high intensity endurance exercise.
 - 1.5.4.2.2 move the activity indoors (if possible).
 - 1.5.4.2.3 ensure participants are aware of any potential symptoms.
 - 1.5.4.2.4 increase the rest to activity ratio.
- 1.5.4.3 When the PM 2.5 Air Quality Index is classified by the EPA as very poor or extremely poor the host school and/or event organiser must strongly consider postponing the activity.

1.5.5 Humidity

- 1.5.5.1 When the relative humidity exceeds 30% it is recommended that postponement to a cooler part of the day or cancellation is considered.
- 1.5.5.2 When the relative humidity exceeds 50%, it is recommended that intensity should be limited and duration should be less than 60 minutes per session.
- 1.5.5.3 When the relative humidity exceeds 60% it is recommended that risk mitigation strategies are implemented (i.e. water available, uniform considered etc.).
- 1.6 Where possible, a decision regarding the event and/or activity proceeding should be made as early as possible, but at least half a day prior to the event. For example by lunchtime/ 1.30pm for an after school activity. Consideration must also be given to schools travelling to activities which may be located out of Ballarat. However, where weather conditions change, a decision will be made and communicated as early as practical.
- 1.7 Where an activity is postponed for more than 60 minutes, the activity may be cancelled.
- 1.8 Member Schools are encouraged to make every effort to maximise playing time prior to the threshold being reached, by working collaboratively and where possible, commencing the activity at an earlier time in the day.
- 1.9 BAS in conjunction with the Committee (if necessary), at their absolute discretion may issue a cancellation of any activity where weather conditions are determined to be so extreme that a cancellation is necessary.

Part 3- Implementation

1. This Adverse Weather Policy is implemented through a combination of the following strategies:
 - 1.1 Member training, education and information including Member School's being responsible for internally communicating this policy.
 - 1.2 Encouraging a collaborative, communicative and proactive approach.
 - 1.3 Promoting a positive reporting cultural.
 - 1.4 Initiating corrective action where appropriate.

Part 4- Audit & Review

1. BAS is committed to continuous review and improvement of all of its operations, including this policy.
2. It is the responsibility of the Committee to regularly monitor and annually review the effectiveness of this policy in practice.
3. It is the responsibility of the BAS Executive Officer to ensure this policy is reviewed annually and spot audits are completed at least annually for each member school and relevant records are maintained.

Part 5- Breach

1. Any breach of this policy will be taken seriously and immediately followed up by BAS.
2. Any breach of this policy may lead to action being taken, for serious breaches, this may include but is not limited to termination of membership.

Part 6- Resources

Australian Institute of Sport- <https://www.ais.gov.au>

Bureau of Meteorology- <https://bom.gov.au>

Environmental Protection Authority Victoria- <https://epa.vic.gov.au>



Sports Medicine Australia- <https://sma.org.au>

Vic Emergency- <http://www.emergency.vic.gov.au>

<i>Adverse Weather Policy</i>	<i>Person Responsible: BAS Committee</i>	<i>Approved by: BAS Committee</i>
<i>Date of Approval: 29 October 2025</i>	<i>Last Review: 6 August 2025</i>	<i>Next Review: Term 2 2026</i>

ANNEXURE 1

The following sports risk classification by Sports Medicine Australia provides a basis for classifying activities based on the combined effects of exercise intensity and clothing/ equipment worn with 1 being the lowest classification to 5 being the highest risk classification.

Sport Risk Classification				
1	2	3	4	5
Walking (leisurely)	Archery Bowls Field Athletics Fishing Golf Lifesaving Surf Sailing Shooting (Pistol/Trap) Walking (brisk)	Abseiling Australian Football Basketball Cycling Canoeing Caving Kayaking Netball Oztag Rock Climbing Rowing Soccer Tennis Touch Football Long Distance Running Triathlon Volleyball	Baseball Bushwalking Cricket Equestrian Horseback riding Motor Cycling Rugby Union Rugby League Softball	Field Hockey Mountain Biking

ANNEXURE 2

BAS Head of the Lake

The following procedures are to be followed relating to the staging of the BAS Head of the Lake:

The Bureau of Meteorology website / app or other weather app as agreed upon in advance by the Committee would be used for the forecast and determining weather conditions relevant to the event.

48 hours prior to the start time of the event, (by 9am on the Friday preceding a Sunday regatta), weather conditions on BOM or other agreed weather app will be checked. At the discretion of the Committee other relevant sources and local knowledge may be taken into consideration. Should any of the forecast conditions be outside the prescribed parameters the event will be cancelled. The BAS Chair of Rowing will advise other Principals and, in conjunction with the Executive Officer, inform Rowing Victoria and any appropriate media.

7am, the day of the event Principals and the assigned RV Field of Play Officer and President of the Jury will meet at a location to be confirmed subject to the wind conditions. Again, the BOM website/ app and other agreed app along with other relevant sources and local knowledge may be used as a reference in consultation with Principals and Rowing Victoria Officials.

Once the event has commenced, conditions shall be reviewed every 30 minutes OR at the request of a Principal or an RV Official.

On the day of the event, the initial decision will be to delay racing for 1 hour and then review forecast conditions, according to the prescribed parameters to determine whether to proceed or not.

Safety Concerns must come from Rowing Coordinators to the Principal of their school then to the BAS Chair of Rowing who will inform Rowing Victoria Officials. Any other safety event or something specific to a school, will be communicated in the same way.

Concerns in relation to a specific race during the regatta

Any concern is to be raised via the School Principal and racing will be suspended until investigated.

Concern must be raised within 30 minutes of when the concern occurred.

A meeting convened with Principals and RV Field of Play Officer / President of the Jury.

All Principals will support although a Principal may withdraw their crews at any time due to events outside the prescribed parameters.

BAS appointed representative to support President of the Jury

Cancellation of the BAS Head of the Lake will be required should any of the below conditions be forecast 48 Hours prior to the start time of the event / (by 9am on the Friday preceding a Sunday regatta), or present during the event.

- Wind speed – consideration of the above procedures and/or over 30 kmph.
- Wind direction will also be considered a factor.
- Heat – refer to the RV Heat Policy
- Rain - greater than 20mm or 70% chance of 20mm or more rain.
- Storms, lightening or thunder / Extreme weather warnings -forecast or present during the event.



Communication:

All communication with Rowing Victoria is through Executive Officer of BAS and/or Chair, BAS Rowing.

All communication with media with regards to any postponement or rescheduling is through Chair of BAS Rowing

All communication with families and rowing club members for each school is through the Principal to the Rowing Coordinator.

A Back up Date is to be nominated for the Head of the Lake each year.