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## **Marong and District Tennis Association Inc. – Policies and Procedures**

### **Adverse Weather Policy**

#### ***Background***

Due to the variant nature, and the inability to accurately forecast adverse weather and the likelihood of localised weather patterns it is not possible or practical to create a policy that can be applied to all venues on any particular day.

However, the following Policies, Procedures and Recommendations should be followed.

#### **Rain/ Hail**

##### ***Background:***

Depending on the court surface, it may take a little or a lot of rain to make the surface dangerous and unplayable.

##### ***Policy and Procedure***

- In the event of ongoing and persistent rain the match may be cancelled by the Club captains, but not before 11:30am. Points to be divided evenly.
- In the event of rain or hail, if conditions such as the safety of the playing surface or player welfare are deemed unsafe by either team captains then play should initially be suspended.
  - If the match cannot be completed and a result cannot be reached by 7:00pm, then the match shall be drawn. If however, points have been decided said points remain in place. Outstanding points shall be divided evenly.

##### ***Recommendations***

- If conditions improve i.e. Rain stops or eases to what is considered a safe level by captains/members and the playing surface can be cleared or has drained sufficiently to enable play to re-commence, games should then be concluded. However, only if there is ample time to complete the match.

#### **Lightning**

##### ***Background***

Any time thunder is heard, the thunderstorm is close enough to pose an immediate lightning threat to your location.

It is recommended that 10km is the minimum safe distance from a storm. The 30/30 rule is used to serve as a guide for the suspension and safe resumption of outdoor operations and activities.

The first part of the 30/30 rule is determined by counting the seconds from when you see a lightening 'flash' until you hear the thunder 'bang'. Sound travels at about 1 kilometre every 3 seconds, so a 30 second interval means the storm is approximately 10km away.

The second part of the 30/30 rule provides the criteria for resuming activities. The recommended safe distance from a storm is 20km. A typical storm moves at 40km/h, so waiting 30 seconds after the last thunder is heard or lightening seen provides the safe 20km distance.

The 30/30 rule is not an absolute rule. A storm may move very quickly, or not generate any lightning or thunder until it is very close, or wind conditions may prevent sound from traveling to your position.

Note - 30 minutes seems a long time but if you have had rain, it may take 30 minutes for the courts to become playable.

### ***Policy and Procedure***

- In the event of a thunderstorm apply the 30-30 rule.
- The Captains of each club are responsible for monitoring the weather conditions and implementing the 30/30 rule.
- If the match cannot be completed and a result cannot be reached by 7:00pm, then the match shall be drawn. If however, points have been decided said points remain in place. Outstanding points shall be divided evenly.

### ***Recommendations***

- If the weather forecast is for possible thunderstorms/lightning remain vigilant for changing or rapidly deteriorating conditions.
- If you see lightning apply the **“30 - 30 Rule”**. Count the time from seeing lightning to when accompanying thunder clap is heard...if less than **30 seconds (storm is less than 10kms away)**, go **immediately to a safer place**. Wait **30 minutes** after the last thunder clap before continuing play.
- Safe areas include a building which will divert the electrical current around and away from the people sheltering in it. Metal skinned fully enclosed vehicles. Do not shelter under trees.
- Victims of lightning strikes are safe to handle. First aiders must ensure they do not become another casualty. Effects of lightning strike include cardiac and respiratory arrest caused by disruption of the brains' control centres. It is important that even people who do not show symptoms immediately after the strike receive medical attention as some effects may not be immediately obvious.

### **Finals**

During finals every effort should be made to conclude the final once the rain/hail/lightning has subsided. If play cannot continue or the match cannot be concluded by 7:00pm, the following procedures should be followed.

- If twelve (12) sets are completed, the club with the greater number of games shall be declared the winner of the match
- If twelve (12) sets are completed and the number of games is equal, the club placed higher on the ladder is declared the winner of the match.
- If twelve (12) sets are not completed, the club situated highest on the ladder shall be declared the winner of the match.
- The Grand Final may be rescheduled to the following Saturday
- If the Grand Final is to be rescheduled, the original team sheet must be adhered to.
- If the rescheduled Grandfinal is affected by adverse weather same procedures apply, however the match may not be rescheduled.

Information was sourced from:

- Department of Sport and Recreation Victoria
- Bureau of Meteorology
- NSW Sport and Recreation Outdoor Activities – Lightning Safety Recommendations

## **Heat Policy**

### ***Background:***

The risk of heat illness from vigorous exercise is significant. The physiological and structural difference between children and adults places children at a greater risk of suffering from heat illness.

High Intensity exercise in a hot environment with associated fluid loss and elevation of body temperature can lead to: Dehydration → Heat Exhaustion → Heat Stroke.

### ***Policy and Procedure:***

- If the forecasted ambient temperature at 9:00am is greater than or equal to 38°C, the entire round of matches shall be cancelled. No points will be allocated for a cancelled round. No teams can play when the heat policy is enforced. The Association will contact Captains for the official notification.
- If the forecasted ambient temperature is not forecasted to exceed the cut off temperature. In the event that the ambient temperature increases to thirty-eight degrees Celsius (38°C) during the course of play; play will be suspended for half one hour to allow for a decrease in temperature. On the occasion the temperature remains at thirty-eight degrees (38°C) or higher, the match shall be cancelled, (refer to 13.1. for point's distribution).

### ***Recommendations***

- All clubs are required to be in possession of a thermometer that shall be placed at least one metre from ground level, out of the sun (shaded) and away from a radiant surface (e.g. Brick wall)
- In Conditions of high heat (but less than 38oC) it may be necessary to modify game conditions to ensure a safe environment. E.g. breaks between sets, increased drinks time at end of games.
- Children under the age of 18 are at risk of heat injury at an ambient temperature of 34oC. The Association recommendation is for clubs to assess the risk to the participating children and gives the authority for captains to cancel play if temperature exceeds thirty-four degrees Celsius (34oC). Points will be divided evenly. Clubs are to refer to the Sports Medicine Heat Policy as a guide to avoiding heat injury.  
On the occasion the ambient temperature reaches 35oC, sudden death will occur after deuce.
- Closely monitor members with an increased risk of suffering a heat illness e.g. Asthmatics, members over 60years old, pregnant women and overweight members.
- Ensure all children are wearing appropriate clothing.
- Encourage a Sun Safe Policy – Hats and Sunscreen.

## **Finals**

### ***Procedure for finals matches***

- If the ambient temperature at 12:30pm is greater than or equal to thirty-eight degrees Celsius (38oC) at the selected venue, then play shall not commence at 1:00pm.
- Play may commence when the ambient temperature falls below the stated temperature, provided that there is sufficient time to complete the match.
- If there is not sufficient time to complete the match
  - If twelve (12) sets are completed, the club with the greater number of games shall be declared the winner of the match
  - If twelve (12) sets are completed and the number of games is equal, the club placed higher on the ladder is declared the winner of the match.
  - If twelve (12) sets are not completed, the club situated highest on the ladder shall be declared the winner of the match.
- The Grand Final maybe rescheduled to the following Saturday.
- If the rescheduled Grand Final is affected by the Heat Policy the same procedures apply, however the match may not be rescheduled.