

Unfavourable Weather Policy

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 the Victorian Athletic League reminds all parties that they should act responsibly. The Victorian Athletic League 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:

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. sprints, distance).

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

- Extreme temperatures (38 degrees or higher)
- Fog
- Frost, hail and ice
- Flooding
- Smoke & dust
- Strong winds
- Thunder storm (lightning)
- Torrential rain
- Fire

It is recognised that conditions, duration, impact, etc. may vary from venue to venue and a prescriptive policy is not proposed. Rather, the Victorian Athletic League 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. Victorian Athletic League website).

Extreme Heat -

In the case of extreme heat, temperatures forecasted at 38 Degrees Celsius or higher will render an event postponed, cancelled or have its program modified to periods or intervals where the temperature is below 38 degrees.

Lightening -

In the case of lightening during an event program, events will be postponed by the 30/30 rule - participants must wait at least 30 minutes after the last sound (thunder) or observation of lightning and ensure conditions are completely safe before leaving shelter to resume activities. Each time lightning is observed or thunder is heard the 30 minutes clock will be re-started.

Fire -

The National Fire Danger Ratings provide information so people in affected areas can take action to protect themselves and others. The higher the fire danger, the more dangerous the conditions and the greater the impact will be if a fire starts. Fire Danger Ratings will be issued on days when there is a fire risk, the Fire Danger Ratings have been updated, as per the CFA website .

If on the day of a VAL event, a 'Catastrophic or Extreme' fire rating has been issued in the same region, the VAL may render an event postponed, cancelled or have its program modified, to minimise the risk of danger and ensure the safety of all participants, officials and spectators. The VAL will be guided by Vic Emergency and the Country Fire Authority's advice on Fire Danger Ratings and Total Fire Bans across the season.

Making the decision:

The decision to cancel, suspend or modify events is the responsibility of the below three roles and will be determined by a majority vote:

- Chief Steward
- Club Representative
- Victorian Athletic League EO

Where one of the above roles is unavailable, or if further input is sought, other relevant parties who occupy the following roles who can and should be consulted on for decisions to cancel, suspend or modify events include:

- Event Manager
- Venue Manager
- Victorian Athletic League Committee Member

Weighing up all relevant factors, decisions should be made and communicated at the earliest possible opportunity.

Communication / notification:

For Victorian Athletic League events, notices will be posted as soon as possible on the Victorian Athletic League website and social media channels.

Where events are suspended or modified during the course of the Meeting, officials will immediately broadcast information and advice to clubs, athletes, spectators and associated members as soon as practically possible.

The Victorian Athletic League endeavours to act reasonably at all times and accepts no responsibility for actions and events beyond its control and for the consequences of actions taken in good faith, for the overall health and safety of participants, administrators, officials, spectators, at all Victorian Athletic League related events.

Document History:

DATE	VERSION #	ACTION TAKEN / UPDATED
SEPTMEBER 2023	2.0	Updated Unfavourable Weather Policy