

Title:	Minkey Inclement Weather Policy			
Date written:	July 16	Written by:	Julie Holliday	

A. Purpose

Adelaide Hockey Club's Minkey program is run on the grass playing fields at Park 17, corner Beaumont Road and Greenhill Road.

The purpose of this policy is to guide the decision on whether inclement weather necessitates the cancellation of a weekly round of Minkey to prevent the risk of

- injuries to those involved including players, umpires and spectators and/or
- damage to the playing surface

B. Scope

This policy applies to all participating schools, players, coaches and spectators as well as Adelaide Hockey Club umpires and Minkey CoOrdinator

C. Related Documents

Hockey SA and Hockey Australia's Policies on Extreme Weather

D. Policy Statement

Adelaide Hockey Club reserves the right to cancel a weekly round of minkey whenever

- health and safety of participants is threatened due to impending weather conditions
- field conditions could result in injury to players or damage to the fields.
- there is risk of damage to the field surface

The decision on whether to suspend or discontinue play is at the discretion of the Minkey CoOrdinator

These guidelines should apply to all occasions where participants, umpires and spectators are likely to be at risk from exposure to extreme weather.

E. Policy Application

CRITERIA FOR CANCELLING DUE TO EXTREME WEATHER

Extreme weather may be defined as weather that threatens the immediate or long-term safety of individuals as a result of rain, hail, lightening, wind chill or heat. Heat or wind chill are outside of the scope of this policy.

When severe winter weather is forecast, the Minkey CoOrdinator should regularly monitor weather conditions and reports leading up to game time. Present weather conditions and the traffic conditions within the immediate area as well as outlying roads upon which players and officials are arriving may be considered. Based on this information, the Minkey CoOrdinator will decide whether to cancel competition for that week.

The Bureau of Meteorology provides information on local weather conditions and observations including temperature, UV, wind speed and thermal comfort. Weather warning can be viewed at www.bom.gov.au

Per Hockey Australia's guidelines, risk is determined in conjunction with Sport Medicine Australia's Guidelines as well as the Bureau of Meteorology's forecast conditions.

Weather Condition	Extreme weather determinant
Apparent temperature (wind chill)	< 2 degrees Celsius
Wind speed	> 40km per hour
Rainfall	> 80mm within 24 hours

Unless there has been prior agreement by all teams, the decision to cancel a Minkey round will be made by the Minkey CoOrdinator and notified to participating teams by 2pm on game day.

CRITERIA FOR ESTABLISHING FIELD PLAYABILITY

The following information will be used to guide the decision of whether play is to be cancelled -

- Standing water within the majority of a single playing field
- Your feet are suctioned to the ground as you walk within the majority of a single playing field
- Your foot prints are filling with water in the majority of a single playing field
- The depth of your foot print is greater than 2 inches in the majority of a single playing field.
- Grass can be dislodged from the parks easily by play.

If it has rained within the preceding 24 hours, the Minkey CoOrdinator must arrange for field inspection on game day to obtain the most up to date assessment on field playability and advise schools of cancellation **prior to 2pm**

Should the fields be deemed OK before 2pm, the Minkey Co-Ordinator is still expected to make an educated and responsible decision regarding field condition playability using the above criteria prior to the commencement of games at 4pm.

If the ground is slippery from frost, rain or mud or if the temperature drops below eight degrees or the sky becomes dark, it is at the discretion of the Minkey CoOrdinator to determine whether to cancel or discontinue play.

METHOD OF COMMUNICATION

The Minkey CoOrdinator will communicate the cancellation of the round to all nominated Team Managers by email by 2pm on game day. If the round is to continue, there will be no communication to Team Managers.

EXTREME WEATHER DURING A ROUND

If games commence, the Minkey CoOrdinator will continue to monitor weather conditions for the duration of the round. If conditions are deemed unsafe, the Minkey CoOrdinator will discontinue play.

If it begins to rain, play will continue until the event manager deems it unsafe to do so or the pitch become unplayable. If it be apparent that prolonged rain periods will continue, it is recommended play will be discontinued.

If the ground is slippery from frost, rain or mud or if the temperature drops below eight degrees or the sky becomes dark, it is at the discretion of the Minkey CoOrdinator to determine whether to discontinue play.

HAIL

All hailstorms present some risk to players in an open playing field, and the size and intensity of the storm can change dramatically in a short period of time.

All play should be suspended during hail storms so that players and officials can seek suitable shelter.

It is important to also be aware of any significant temperature drop, rainfall and increased wind that may be associated with the hail conditions.

Play should be restarted after the hail has stopped falling, with particular attention being given to the amount of ice on the playing surface (size and thickness of layer). In some cases it may be unsafe to resume play immediately due to an ice covered surface. In this situation, the Minkey CoOrdinator may decide to abandon the rest of the round.

LIGHTNING

Lightning is the visible part of an electrical discharge. Thunder is the resulting sound from the rapid expansion of the air after this electrical discharge. Sound follows light at 0.34 km/sec. Check the forecast and watch the sky. Darkening skies, flashes or lightning, or increasing wind may indicate an approaching storm.

Lightning safety tips:

- Use the **30/30 Lightning Rule**. If the time between the lightning flash and the thunder sound is less than 30 SECONDS then play should be suspended.
- Find safe shelter. Sturdy buildings are the safest place to be during lightning storms. Avoid sheds, picnic shelters, metal coaching boxes & goals. Staying in a car with windows closed also offers some protection.

ADMINISTRATION

There shall be no rescheduling of matches cancelled due to extreme weather.

Umpires will not receive payment for any game that is cancelled prior to commencement

Participating schools will be entitled to a refund equivalent to 50% of umpire fee for each game cancelled due to extreme weather, provided that the game did not commence. This refund will be forwarded to the school at the end of the Minkey season.

F. Policy Review

This Policy will be reviewed annually