



SEVERE WEATHER POLICY

The safety of the staff, members and guests is paramount and the Pro Shop staff on duty have the authority to temporarily suspend (or cancel) play in extreme weather conditions.

1. Player Discretion

Every effort will be made by the Shoalhaven Heads Golf Club to ensure the safety of players, always, during extreme weather events. This policy serves as a guideline to players by which they will be asked to cease/postpone play under extreme weather conditions threatening their safety during competition or general member play.

Irrespective of this policy any player may withdraw either before or during an event if they consider that the weather conditions to be hazardous or not consistent with reasonable playing conditions.

When extreme weather is forecast the Course Superintendent, Match Committee and/or Pro Shop Staff should initiate procedures and monitor the weather. This may be done by using weather apps, wind speed monitors or any other suitable information source.

2. Extreme Heat

Members and guests who play on days of extreme heat do so at their own risk. Players are advised to take appropriate actions to prevent heat stress. The Shoalhaven Heads Golf Club reminds all players that they should take appropriate measures to avoid heat stress, heat stroke, heat cramps and heat exhaustion and particularly that they take measures to ensure adequate hydration and sun protection.

Should the forecast ambient temperature be 40 degrees or more, the Match Committee and/or Club Professional will decide in consultation with the WH&S Committee whether the golf course should be closed.

3. Lightning Policy

In Australia, lightning accounts for five to ten deaths and well over one hundred injuries annually. A large percentage of lightning strike victims survive but many of these suffer from severe life-long injury and disability. Statistics show that approximately 25% of people killed by lightning are playing sport.

When thunderstorms threaten, all play is to be suspended and resumed as directed by the Match Committee and the Pro Shop Staff. When a lightning strike is within 15km of the Club, play on the course and the use of the practice facilities will be immediately suspended. A loud siren will be activated, and all players must mark their ball, return to the inside of the clubhouse immediately and await further information. Play will resume when there have been no lightning strikes within 15km of the course for a period of at least 30 minutes.

4. High Winds Policy

Players, volunteers, and workers are advised and reminded of the danger of limbs falling from trees on days of high winds (50 kph or more). Players, volunteers and workers are advised to be aware of the forecast of strong winds and to give consideration to their own personal safety while out on the course under these conditions.

Play will not commence, or will be suspended, if high winds are making the Course, either, unplayable or dangerous, or if such winds are imminent.

Should the forecast indicate that winds are likely to exceed 50 kph (see Beaufort Wind Scale) players, volunteers and workers will be reminded of the possible dangers of falling limbs or trees and the possibility that the Course may be closed.

Should the average wind speed from the nearest available weather station, or measured by a handheld monitor, reach 60 kph, or gusts of 90 kph are recorded, then the siren must be sounded immediately (with one long blast) and play suspended.

Play may also be suspended if wind speeds are such that the Match Committee and/or Club Captain consider that play is unreasonable or that the Course Superintendent and Professional Staff consider that there is a personal injury risk from falling branches or from debris blowing on the course. In these circumstances the ultimate decision to suspend play should be made in consultation with a member of the Board or the WH&S committee.

5.0 Rain

The decision to close the Course due to rain in the absence of extreme wind or proximity of lightning strikes will be made by the Course Superintendent in consultation with the Club Professional and/or Match Committee.

When the Course is open during rain periods, members may withdraw from any event if their circumstances indicate that they should do so.

6.0 Reminder to all players

This Policy is structured to provide information and tools that can be used and deployed to assist members, visitors, and staff with adverse weather conditions. Should, with all the information available, you decide that the weather deems it unsafe for you to participate on any day, simply notify the Pro Shop of your intentions.