



Moorabbin Little Athletics Centre Incorporated (MLAC)

Policy Document

Adverse Weather Policy

Document Approval
MLAC Centre Executive

Document Owner
MLAC Centre Executive

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1.2

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10/08/2016

Controlled Document

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A. PURPOSE

To provide the minimum direction when managing adverse weather conditions at Moorabbin Little Athletics Centre Incorporated (“MLAC”) events, competitions and training sessions.

This policy is designed to:

- Protect the health, safety and wellbeing of all who participate in and attend MLAC events.
- Ensure MLAC venues are a safe place to compete, spectate and officiate as far as is reasonably practicable.

B. AUTHORITY

The Adverse Weather Policy was approved by the Centre Executive on 10/08/2016.

C. EFFECTIVE DATE

The Adverse Weather Policy is to take effect from 10/08/2016.

D. AMENDMENTS

Any amendments to this policy are to be recorded in the Document Control Sheet stating the date of adaptation and the effective date upon which any amendment is to take effect.

E. ALIGNMENT WITH LITTLE ATHLETICS VICTORIA

This Adverse Weather Policy has been adopted from and aligns to the Little Athletics Association of Victoria (“LAVic”) Extreme Weather Policy.

The LAVic Extreme Weather Policy can be accessed [here](#)

The LAVic Exercise & Hydration in Extreme Temperatures - Recommended Guidelines have also been considered in the development of this policy.

The LAVic Exercise & Hydration in Extreme Temperatures - Recommended Guidelines can be accessed [here](#)

F. PUBLICATION

Sections one (1) to five (5) of the Adverse Weather Policy are to be published on the MLAC website.

All amendments to this policy are to be reflected on the MLAC website in a timely manner.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Centre Executive and General Committee (“MLAC Committee”) has a duty of care to regularly monitor environmental conditions and to take action to minimise the risk of illness or injury to athletes and attendees as a result of adverse weather conditions.

This policy applies to MLAC competition and training events.

This policy does not apply to Little Athletics Association of Victoria (“LAVic”) events e.g., Region/State Relay Championships, Region/State Track & Field Championships, U8-U9 Carnival etc.

2. CANCELLATION, SUSPENSION OR MODIFICATION OF EVENTS

The MLAC Committee has the authority to cancel, suspend or modify a competition or training event when adverse weather conditions pose an unacceptable risk to the health and safety of athletes, officials, spectators, volunteers or other participants.

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

- hot weather;
- wet weather;
- high winds;
- thunder storm (lightning);
- fog;
- frost, hail and ice;
- flooding;
- smoke and dust;
- snow.

A suspended or modified event might relate to an entire program or elements thereof, e.g.:

- postponing the start of competition or training;
- removal of hurdles; jumps; throwing events; distance events;
- replacing the competition program with a cross country event in wet weather.

Total Fire Ban

A ‘Total Fire Ban’ restriction should act as the mechanism to review an event.

If a ‘Total Fire Ban’ has been forecast on the day of the event, members of the MLAC Committee will check prevailing weather conditions one hour prior to the event to ascertain whether the event should be cancelled, suspended or modified.

Hot Weather

If the temperature is 38°C one hour prior to the commencement of the event, members of the MLAC Committee will check the forecast to ascertain whether temperatures are likely to decrease (drop). If a decrease in temperature is not forecast then the event may be cancelled, suspended or modified.

If the ambient temperature is likely to reach 40°C during an event, the event will be cancelled.

3. MAKING THE DECISION

In the lead up to each MLAC event, members of the MLAC Committee will monitor the weather forecast to assess the likelihood of adverse weather impacting the program.

The decision to cancel, suspend or modify events will be the responsibility of at least two of the following:

- President;
- Competition Director;
- Team Manager;
- Coaching Co-ordinator;
- Committee member.

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

4. COMMUNICATION / NOTIFICATION

Where adverse weather threatens the start of a MLAC event, a decision as to whether the program will proceed should be made by.

- Twilight training – 3:45pm.
- Twilight competition – 5:00pm.
- Saturday or Sunday competition or training event – 7:45am.

Notices will be posted via the MLAC Facebook page and on the MLAC website stating any known changes to the program or alternative start times.

Where events are suspended or modified during the course of competition or training, officials should immediately broadcast information and advise athletes, officials, spectators, volunteers or other participants as soon as practically possible.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES

The MLAC Committee endeavours to act reasonably at all times and in good faith for the overall health and safety of athletes, officials, spectators, volunteers or other participants.

Centre Executive

- Ensure this policy reflects current recommendations for reducing and managing risks associated with adverse weather conditions.

MLAC Committee

- Exercise the authority to cancel, suspend or modify MLAC events if conditions pose an unacceptable risk to the health and safety of athletes, officials, spectators, volunteers or other participants.
- Ensure sufficient sunscreen, water and shade is provided.
- Make regular announcements reminding everyone at the event keep drinking water, apply sunscreen and remain in the shade wherever possible.

Team Managers / Officials

- Familiarise themselves with this policy and be aware of prevailing weather conditions and how they may affect athletes, officials, spectators, volunteers or other participants.

Athletes / Other Participants

- Alert officials, team managers or MLAC Committee members of any safety concerns.
- Follow the directions of officials, team managers or MLAC Committee members.
- Wear sun safe attire whilst exposed to the sun.

POLICY ADMINISTRATION

Approval Body	Centre Executive
Policy Owner	Centre Executive
Effective Date	10/08/2016
Date of Last Review	06/09/2017
Next Scheduled Review	August 2018
Related Policies	Nil
Supporting Procedure or Guidelines	<p>MLAC Handbook</p> <p>Little Athletics Victoria Extreme Weather Policy</p> <p>Little Athletics Victoria Exercise & Hydration in Extreme Temperatures – Recommended Guidelines</p> <p>Sports Medicine Australia – Hot Weather Guidelines for Sporting Clubs and Associations and the Physical Active</p>

DOCUMENT CONTROL SHEET

Version	Date of Adoption	Amendment
1.0	20/07/2016	Initial document for discussion
1.1	10/08/2016	Finalised and approved
1.2	06/09/2017	Minor content changes and fix broken hyperlinks