

YARRAWONGA MULWALA GOLF CLUB RESORT

RISK WARNING PURSUANT TO SECTION 5M OF THE *CIVIL LIABILITY ACT 2002*

Participation in a Recreational Activity, particularly during an Extreme Weather event, carries inherent risks and dangers and may result in damage to property, physical harm to persons or death. These risks may include (without limitation) sprains, twists, broken bones, lacerations, spinal injury, head or brain injury, paralysis, heat exhaustion, dehydration, heat stroke or hyperthermia and associated symptoms, burns, permanent disability or death.

You acknowledge and warrant that you:

- (a) participate in any Recreational Activity, particularly during any Extreme Weather event, at your own risk; and
- (b) you have consulted with your medical professional before participating in a Recreational Activity to determine the extent of any additional risks posed by any relevant health conditions and whether your chosen Recreational Activity is suitable for you.

Policy Name: **Extreme Weather Policy**

Statement: Yarrawonga Mulwala Golf Club Resort (**YMGCR** or **the Club**) is committed to having in place an “Extreme Weather Policy” (**Policy**) that seeks to ensure the health and safety of its members, guests, visitors and staff. This Policy has been prepared with the aim of maximising member playing opportunities, but also clearly identifying the required procedures when weather events reach levels that may present a risk to the health and safety of players, or damage to YMGCR’s facilities.

Overview: This Policy provides a framework and guidelines that seek to minimise the risk of harm occurring due to extreme weather at YMGCR.

The Policy applies to and binds all members, guests, visitors and staff, including all persons participating in the various sporting activities available across YMGCR’s facilities, including, but not limited to, Golf, Bowls, Croquet and Tennis.

YMGCRC seeks to ensure the health, safety, welfare and wellbeing of members, guests, visitors and staff.

Extreme Weather is not always forecast and can materialise with little warning. Where practicable, YMGCR will take the steps outlined in this Policy to make participants aware of certain Extreme Weather events and the risk to health and safety those events may pose. Those steps include:

- (a) an initial warning to all players of the threat of an Extreme Weather event;
- (b) where YMGCR determines in its sole discretion that the Extreme Weather event presents an imminent risk to health and safety:
 - (i) play or participation (including in competitions) may be suspended or cancelled;
 - (ii) YMGCR’s facilities may be closed, and players may be directed to evacuate the relevant facility to a safer location.

All members, guests, visitors and other participants in Recreation Activities must comply with the reasonable directions of YMCCR's staff. Failure to comply with a reasonable direction may result in disciplinary action.

The Club Captain will liaise with YMCCR Pro Shop Staff and the Administrator to facilitate the display and publication of Extreme Weather warnings and, if necessary, the immediate suspension of play and the closure and evacuation of the affected facilities.

All participants must take responsibility for their own safety during any Extreme Weather event. All participants, particularly those with underlying health conditions, must consult with their medical professional about the individual risks they might face when participating in Recreational Activities.

Any player in a group may choose to stop play and seek shelter if they believe an Extreme Weather event exists or is imminent.

All golf participants are reminded of the rules and their obligations under Rule 5.7a – 5.7b of [The R&A – Rules of Golf](#). These rules provide that a player:

- (a) must stop play where the committee immediately suspends play due to imminent danger;
- (b) may elect to stop play if they reasonably believe there is a danger from lightning and must report to the committee as soon as possible.

Definitions:

Unless the context otherwise requires, capitalised terms used in this Policy have the following meanings:

Administrator means the C.E.O of YMCCR or the most senior management representative with whom the responsibility rests for the management of YMCCR at the time of the relevant Extreme Weather event.

Club Captain includes both the Club Captain and Vice-Captain (Golf).

Competition Coordinator means the person responsible for coordinating any Bowls or Croquet competition present at the time of the relevant Extreme Weather event.

Extreme Weather means extreme heat, thunder and lightning, flooding, fog, strong winds or other extreme weather events that may render it unsafe for players to continue participating in the relevant activity, or which may present a risk of damage to YMCCR's facilities.

Pro Shop Staff means the Head Golf Professional or, in his or her absence, the most senior member of Pro Shop staff who is present at the time of the relevant Extreme Weather event.

Major Event refers to Monthly Medal, 'Pot Round or Pewter', Club Championships or any other event that YMCCR determines in its sole discretion to be a Major Event for the purposes of this Policy.

Recreational Activity means the various sporting activities available across YMCCR's facilities, including, but not limited to, Golf, Bowls, Croquet and Tennis.

POLICY TERMS

1. APPLICATION

- 1.1 This Policy applies to and binds all members, guests, visitors and staff, including all persons participating in the various sporting activities available across YMGCGR's facilities, including, but not limited to, Golf, Bowls, Croquet and Tennis.
- 1.2 Failure to comply with this Policy may result in disciplinary action, suspension, expulsion and removal from YMGCGR's facilities
- 1.3 The Golf Committee (for Golf) and Administrator (for other sports) will regularly monitor adherence to this policy.

2. EMERGENCY WARNING SYSTEMS

- 2.1 YMGCGR operates a lightning warning system in addition to other systems for weather monitoring. A large computer monitor screen dedicated entirely to the BoM rain radar is situated in the Pro Shop for all players to utilise when contemplating whether to play or otherwise. Pro Shop Staff monitor NSW and Victorian emergency phone Apps to ensure they are forewarned of an oncoming risk.
- 2.2 In the event of a lightning storm the lightning warning system will automatically sound the warning siren to forewarn participants of the risk of impending lightning.
- 2.3 The warning siren may also be manually activated in the event of a non-lightning weather event such as strong wind or fog.
- 2.4 In all cases, YMGCGR will also employ traditional means of warning participants of the risk of Extreme Weather events or the requirement for participants to immediately cease play. Pro Shop Staff and Administrators will enter onto the relevant facilities and notify players of the situation, whether that be a warning of an approaching Extreme Weather threat or the need to cease play immediately.

3. LIGHTNING STORMS

- 3.1 Lightning presents an extreme risk to personal safety. The risk of lightning will be determined using one of the following means:
 - (a) observing lightning and hearing thunder and estimating the approximate distance of the weather activity using the following reckoner:

If thunder is heard, the distance to lightning activity is estimated at 10 kms for every 30 seconds that passes before the next lightning flash.
 - (b) The lightning warning system will automatically activate and sound the siren when there is a lightning ground strike within 8 kms of the YMGCGR Pro Shop.
- 3.2 Loss of power may render the lightning warning system inoperable. The decision to suspend play lies solely in the discretion of YMGCGR and is not contingent on the activation of the lightning warning system.

- 3.3 YMCGR may elect in its sole discretion to **immediately suspend play, including competition play**, if a lightning event is detected and expected to impact the facilities of YMCGR.
- 3.4 If YMCGR suspends play, all participants, including all participants entered in the competition of the day, **MUST immediately stop play** and return to the Pro Shop/Clubhouse.
- 3.5 Participants will be notified of the need to suspend play as follows:
- (a) Via the Club's warning siren:

***Immediate Stop:** One 30-second activation of the 'Initial Stop Play' siren*
***Resume Play:** Two 10-second activations of the 'All Clear' siren*
 - (b) Pro Shop Staff will travel the golf courses, where possible, prior to the approach of the extreme weather event and advise players of the requirement to immediately suspend play.
 - (c) Golf participants will receive notifications via the MiScore app where possible.
 - (d) YMCGR's staff and Administrators will notify participants using YMCGR's bowls, croquet and tennis facilities.
- 3.6 For golf, where competition is suspended due to lightning and play does not resume, only scores submitted for rounds completed before the first suspension of play will be considered. A decision to award prizes will be based on the percentage of total scores submitted at the sole discretion of the Club Captain and Pro Shop Staff.
- 3.7 In an endeavour to ensure the safety of all players and adherence to this policy, **any score from a player who continues play during a period of suspension in contravention of this Policy will not be accepted regardless of whether play resumes**. Such a score will be deemed outside the spirit of the game and that score disqualified.
- 3.8 For Recreational Activities other than golf, the individuals, groups or committees coordinating the relevant competition are responsible for determining the outcome of any suspended or cancelled play.

4. **STRONG WIND**

- 4.1 The Club Captain, Pro Shop Staff or Administrators consider that, due to strong wind, the facilities are not in a playable condition or that there are circumstances that render the proper playing of the Recreational Activity unsafe, they may order a temporary suspension of play or cancel all play on that day.
- 4.2 If the wind speed recorded at the BoM Yarrawonga weather station exceeds 50 kph, **all participation in Recreational Activities, including competition play, will be suspended**.
- 4.3 **ALL participants MUST stop play** and seek shelter immediately upon being notified of the suspension of play.

4.4 Players will be notified of the need to suspend play as follows:

(a) Via the Club's warning siren:

Immediate Stop: One 30-second activation of the '**Initial Stop Play**' siren

Resume Play: Two 10-second activations of the '**All Clear**' siren

(b) Pro Shop staff will travel the courses, where possible, and advise participants of the requirement to immediately suspend play until further notice.

(c) Golf participants will receive notifications via the MiScore app where possible.

(d) YMCGR's staff and Administrators will notify participants using YMCGR's bowls, croquet and tennis facilities.

4.5 The wind speed will be monitored by the Club Captain, Pro Shop staff and Administrators using available BoM live data. Should a situation arise where it is considered such strong winds will likely persist and continue to endanger those using the facilities, the facilities will be closed.

4.6 YMCGR's members, guests, visitors, staff and all participants in Recreational Activities are reminded of the dangers of limbs falling from trees on days of extreme winds (50 kph or more). It is the responsibility of those persons to ensure that they monitor forecasts for strong winds and take steps to ensure their own personal safety while using the facilities.

5. **FOG**

5.1 In the case of golf, where fog is present and visibility is reduced so that the course is not visible from the Pro Shop, play may be suspended at the sole discretion of the Club Captain, Pro-Shop Staff or Administrator.

5.2 Players will be notified of the need to suspend play as follows:

(a) Via the Club's warning siren:

Immediate Stop: One 30-second activation of the '**Initial Stop Play**' siren

Resume Play: Two 10-second activations of the '**All Clear**' siren

(b) Pro Shop staff will travel the courses, where possible, and advise participants of the requirement to immediately suspend play until further notice.

(c) Golf participants will receive notifications via the MiScore app where possible.

(d) YMCGR's staff and Administrators will notify participants using YMCGR's bowls, croquet and tennis facilities.

5.3 Once cessation of play has been signalled, Pro Shop Staff must ensure any golfers arriving at the course are prevented from hitting off until play is resumed and any players on the course have ceased playing.

5.4 The Captain, Pro-Shop Staff or Administrator may resume play when, in their sole discretion, it is determined that it is safe for play to resume.

- 5.5 In the case of Recreational Activities other than golf, the decision to resume play following a fog event is a matter for the relevant event coordinator in their sole discretion.

6. **EXTREME HEAT**

Forecast extreme heat

- 6.1 If at 4.30pm on the day before a Major Event, the Bureau of Meteorology's (BoM) forecast for Yarrawonga is 38° C or higher, that event will be rescheduled and substituted with:
- (a) in the case of golf, a Stableford event; or
 - (b) in the case of any other Recreational Event, a similar event to the Major Event to be determined in the sole discretion of the relevant coordinator.

Exception:

If the Major Event was expected to conclude before the BOM's predicted time to reach 38°C, it would be played without cancellation

Extreme heat during play

- 6.2 Where the current temperature for Yarrawonga reaches 38°C according to data published by the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) or other devices at YMCGR's facilities, participants will be notified via a message through the MiScore app to the following effect:

"The temp has reached 38° C please consider your need to continue playing and take steps to ensure your own health and safety"

- 6.3 In the case of golf, participants may determine in their sole discretion whether they wish to continue play or have a "No Score Approved (NSA)", provided that any participant who elects to continue play does so at their own risk.
- 6.4 In the case of other Recreational Activities:
- (a) YMCGR may elect in its sole discretion to commence the relevant activity at an earlier start time with a view to completing all events before the extreme heat eventuates;
 - (b) where the temperature reaches 38°C according to data published by the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) or other devices at YMCGR's facilities, the Competition Coordinator will determine in their sole discretion whether or not the event will continue.
- 6.5 The facilities will remain open for "members, guests and visitors" during extreme heat events, however any decision to play is the sole responsibility of the individual.
- 6.6 The drink cart will not operate once the observed temperature reaches 38°C

- 6.7 All participants who elect to play during extreme heat are encouraged to apply sunscreen, wear hats, consider using a motorised golf cart, carry an umbrella and other protective clothing, and continually re-hydrate with water during play.
- 6.8 All participants are reminded of the risk of symptoms and illnesses that may arise from participating in a Recreational Activity during excessive heat, including:
- (a) heat rash;
 - (b) cramps;
 - (c) heat exhaustion and heat stroke;
 - (d) dehydration;
 - (e) hyperthermia;
 - (f) fainting and hyperventilation;
 - (g) death, permanent disability or other serious injury.

7. DISCRETION TO SUSPEND, CEASE OR RESUME PLAY

- 7.1 Notwithstanding any other provision of this Policy:
- (a) while the decision to interrupt play as a result of an Extreme Weather event will be made with the intention of resuming play as soon as possible, any decision to suspend, cease or resume play lies in the sole discretion of YMCGR and its representatives.
 - (b) where YMCGR and its representatives determine in their sole discretion that the relevant Extreme Weather event is unlikely to subside and will continue to pose and unacceptable risk to health and safety, YMCGR and its representatives may cancel any Recreational Activity for the remainder of the day.

8. GUESTS

In the event that guests are required to suspend play, a voucher will be issued for the player or players to return at a safe time on another day.

9. ADDITIONAL MEASURES

YMCGR offers sunscreen re-application stations provided by the Cancer Council of Australia.

10. WATER FOUNTAINS

There are numerous water fountains located around all courses with refrigerated water fountains on the 10th tee Murray Course and 10th tee Lake Course (near the bowling green).

11. RELATED DOCUMENTS

Golf Australia – Extreme Weather Guidelines (Heat)

<https://www.golf.org.au/policiesandbylaws/>

Bowls NSW – Extreme Weather Policy (all weather conditions)

https://bowlsnsw.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/BNSW_ExtremeWeatherGuidelines_2020.pdf

Croquet Australia – Extreme Weather Policy (all weather conditions)

<https://croquet-australia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Adverse-Playing-Conditions-Policy.pdf>

Original Policy - Promulgated Date: 28 November 2022		
Amendments Made:		
No:	Date	Summary of Amendment:
1.	08 Jan 2024	Clarification of: - Requirement to suspend competition for ALL players when the Emergency Siren is sounded. - Clarification of Heat Policies for all sports available at YMGCRC and determination of the heat, in degrees celsius at which competitions will be postponed
2.	31 Jan 2024	Remove restriction on Social Players being able to play when Heat Rule is enforced.
3.	26 Feb 2024	Revised Extreme Heat clause. Allows all sports to be played until 38°C is reached.
4.	20 April 2025	- Included recommendation that players seek medical advice prior to playing in extreme weather conditions. - Removal of “and gusts” from the wind section of the policy. - Replaced “seek shelter” to “return to the Pro Shop/ Clubhouse” in the Lightning section.
5.	28 May 2026	- Amendments to formatting and drafting for greater clarity. - Inclusion of risk warning pursuant to section 5M of the <i>Civil Liability Act 2002</i>. - Inclusion of new definitions. - Removed the restriction on cancellation of competition play provided that participants who elect to continue play do so at their own risk.
6	24 June 2026	- Removal of section 3.6 regarding cancellation of competition if play not resumed within 1 hour of suspension of play. Other sections renumbered as necessary - Exception added to section 6.1 to provide that a Major Event can take place if competition is expected to conclude prior to BOM’s predicted time to reach 38°C.