



ELTHAM REDBACKS FOOTBALL CLUB INC.
ABN 34 394 819 801, **Reg No.** A0008940Y
Correspondence to: PO Box 236, Eltham, VIC 3095
Home ground: Cedar Ave, Eltham North

Eltham Redbacks Football Club

6.10 Sun Smart, Heat and Extreme Weather Policy
Adopted: April 2019
Scheduled for review: 2024

NOTE: For references to other 'parts', see the related section of the Member's Protection Policy.

6.10 Sun Smart, Heat and Extreme Weather Policy

ERFC is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment at all times and particularly when our members are taking the pitch or are working outdoors.

Sun Smart

Recognising that UV exposure has a significant impact on our members, it is our policy is that the club will provide sun protection measures each day during times indicated by the Bureau of Meteorology (see: <http://www.bom.gov.au/places/vic/melbourne/forecast/>). Sun protection measures include:

- the provision of uniform that is made from UPF 50+ material;
- supply of SPF30 sunscreen from an easily accessible point; and
- access to shade areas such as gazebos and protected technical areas.

Heat

ERFC's heat policy aligns with Football Victoria's heat policy. Specifically:

- FFV and/or the appointed Referee may postpone, delay or abandon any fixture due to extreme weather conditions including, but not limited to, excessive heat or humidity, or poor weather that may endanger participants. In such circumstances, the Referee must set out his or her reasons in writing to FFV within 48 hours of the decision to postpone, delay or abandon the fixture.
- If the temperature is 32°C WBT (<http://www.bom.gov.au/products/IDV65079.shtml>) or above, water bottles should be made available and placed along the sidelines by team officials to enable any player to take a drink during the course of the game. In such circumstances, the match referee may at his or her discretion, also allow a two (2) minute break for players during the course of each half.
- NOTE: In the event that water bottles are made available along the sidelines, players should not leave the field of play to take the drink bottles nor should bottles be thrown on or off the field of play. No time will be added for additional breaks taken and breaks will be taken at a suitable break in play, as determined by the referee.

Extreme Weather

During a hailstorm, all play and training will be suspended so that players and officials can seek suitable shelter. Referees should suspend play, noting where the ball was for future restart (drop ball). It is important to also be aware of any significant temperature drop, rain fall 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 & thickness of layer). In some cases it may be unsafe to resume play immediately due to an ice-covered surface. Deferral of the restart for 15 minutes to allow



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melting (or manual clearing in parts) should be considered in extreme circumstances. Line markings may also need to be checked.

During an electrical storm, lightning poses a threat. If an electrical storm is a possibility (for example storms have been forecast or darkened skies have been observed) members, club officials and referees should be alert to the sound of thunder.

If thunder is heard, the '30 second rule' (i.e. the time between lightning flash and the thunder sound is less than 30 seconds) should be applied. Play, training and outdoor activity must immediately stop and shelter must be sought. Sturdy buildings are the safest place to be during lightning storms. Staying in a car with windows closed also offers some protection. Avoid sheds, picnic shelters, metal coaching boxes & goal posts.

Play, training and outdoor activity must not resume until 30 minutes after the last observation of thunder.

NOTE: Thunder is not usually heard 24-32 kilometres from the lightning strike.

Games involving Under 11s and below

Team Managers and Coaches can make a mutual determination to cancel a fixtured game if the pitch is deemed unplayable or the weather conditions are unsafe. More than one hour's notice for all participants is required. If insufficient time to contact all participants is available then the Team Managers and Coaches can make a mutual decision to call the game off once all players are present and can be notified accordingly.

These cancelled games are not to be re-fixtured.

Games involving Under 12 and Above

If the appointed referee determines that the weather conditions and/or the pitch is unsafe, they will cancel the game. Any decision to cancel a game is at the sole discretion of the appointed referee.

Players will be notified as early as possible, noting that it is difficult to provide more than one hour's notice.

These fixtures will be rescheduled by Football Victoria.

