

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ICE SKATING ASSOCIATION Inc.



Policies and Procedures

Occupational Health Safety & Welfare
Extreme Weather Policy

Version 1

2012

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Extreme Weather Policy

Purpose

Figure Skating on ice is an indoor sport usually conducted under air-conditioned climates. The South Australian Ice Skating Association (SAISA), however, recognises inclement weather could become high risk for members travelling to the ice rinks or attending off-ice training sessions. SAISA and all affiliated clubs have a duty of care to all skaters, officials, volunteers and spectators. The following policy is to ensure all SAISA members are protected in high-risk temperatures and that no member shall suffer injury or damage due to such conditions.

Scope

The policy is binding on SAISA and all affiliated clubs.

The policy refers to children, adolescents, adults, irrespective of whether they are skaters, officials, volunteers, etc.

The policy applies to, but is not restricted to:

- Training
- Clinics and sports camps
- Off-ice practices
- Other events and activities determined from time to time

Factors

Extreme heat

Extreme fire danger

Lightning and severe hail

Wet Weather

Responsibilities

The safety of all members is primarily an individual responsibility.

SAISA provides the guidelines in this policy to ensure all members understand their individual responsibilities.

SAISA responsibilities:

SAISA will provide a policy and ensure members understand their responsibilities to avoid unnecessary risk.

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Coach, team manager or SAISA official responsibilities:

Coaches, team managers and SAISA officials have the authority and the responsibility in conditions deemed high-risk to:

- Cancel training
- Alter the start times
- Alter the length of the session
- Modify breaks

Member responsibilities:

Individuals have a responsibility to withdraw from an event if participating will place them in a position of danger and must:

- read and understand the Extreme wether policy
- Follow the directions of the coach, team manager or SAISA official

Hot Weather: see Hot weather policy (separate document)

Extreme fire danger: Officials should be aware of any CFS fire danger warnings and review such things as the present weather conditions and the traffic conditions within the immediate area as well as outlying roads on which the participants may be arriving. Based on this information, the officials will decide whether to cancel the session or make other arrangements. Orders from authorities to vacate or not enter the area must be heeded.

Lightning and severe hail:

The observation of approaching storm clouds, the first flash of lightning or clap of thunder, should heighten lightning-awareness. The level of risk depends on one's location (direction and distance) relative to the storm cell and the direction the storm is travelling.

A simple method of determining the distance to the storm cell is to measure the time elapsed from the lightning flash is observed and when the associated clap of thunder is heard. Dividing the time delay by 3 gives the approximate distance in kilometres.

If you hear thunder, find shelter urgently, especially if the time delay is less than 30 seconds. Ensure participants remain sheltered for at least 30 minutes after the last sound of thunder and:

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- Seek shelter in a solid building avoiding small open structures
- Never shelter under small groups of trees or single trees
- Stay away from metal objects i.e. poles, fences, umbrellas etc.

Wet weather: Officials should review such things as the present weather conditions and the traffic conditions within the immediate area as well as outlying roads on which the participants may be arriving. Based on this information, the officials will decide whether to cancel the session or make other arrangements.

Before continuing the activity factors such as the age of the participants and their health and medical issues should be factored in as well as the length of the training, access to shelter, appropriate clothing, slipperiness of the surface, quality of the light.