

Obedience, Tracking & Endurance Committee
EXTREME WEATHER POLICY
For Obedience, Rally Obedience, Tracking and Track & Search Trials

This document is intended for use by Clubs (Trial Secretaries) where extreme weather occurs at a trial/s where the health and safety of officials, competitors and dogs could be affected.

In applying this policy, it must be remembered that both people and dogs are affected in similar ways by weather conditions such as high temperatures; high humidity, hot and gale force winds, thunderstorms, lightning or intense rain/flooding.

It has therefore been decided that:

HOT WEATHER

- (a) *a suitable outdoor thermometer to be provided by the Club will be suspended in a location that is open, shaded and no more than ten (10) metres away from the judging rings, and*
- (b) *when the temperature reaches 35 degrees Celsius that this shall be the “trigger” for the following actions.*
 - (i) *Judging in all rings shall be suspended immediately.*
 - (ii) *The Club will then monitor the temperature at 15 minute intervals from the time that the judging was suspended.*
 - (iii) *Should the temperature drop and stay below the “trigger” for a period of 15 minutes, the trial shall resume.*
 - (iv) *If however after 90 minutes has elapsed since the suspension of judging (i.e. after the 6th temperature check) the temperature is still above the “trigger”, the Club shall abandon the balance of the trial.*
 - (v) *Should the balance of the trial be abandoned, no refund of entry fees will apply.*
 - (vi) *Should any competitor have completed all relevant class exercises prior to a trial being suspended and subsequently being abandoned then any qualifying scores attained will still stand.*

If, because of either their location in Victoria or the time of the year of their fixture, Clubs could be affected by high temperatures at their trials, they may consider rescheduling the starting time of their trial to either early morning or later in the evening.

**HOWEVER SHOULD A CODE RED FORECAST BE GIVEN FOR ANY DAY ALL
FIXTURES WILL BE CANCELLED.**

GALE FORCE WINDS, THUNDERSTORMS AND LIGHTNING

(Definition of Gale Force Winds is between 63-87kms per hour)

If gale-force winds or stronger, lightning or thunderstorms are forecast for the area/district where the trial is to be conducted then:

- (a) Referral to the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) Melbourne Radar site is recommended and a wait and see approach be adopted if the weather is clearing, then the trial may proceed once the weather clears.*
- (b) At the onset of either thunder and/or lightning the judging at the trial is to be suspended immediately until it has cleared and then the trial may proceed. The conditions should be reviewed every 15 minutes as with the hot weather conditions policy.*
- (c) However if after 90 minutes has elapsed since the suspension of judging, and the conditions are still unsafe the Club shall abandon the balance of the trial.*
- (d) Should the balance of the trial be abandoned, no refund of entry fees will apply.*
- (e) Should any competitor have completed all relevant class exercises prior to a trial being suspended and subsequently being abandoned then any qualifying scores attained will still stand.*

INTENSE RAIN/FLOODING

If intense rain or flooding occurs for the area/district where the trial is to be conducted then:

- (a) Referral to the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) Melbourne Radar site is recommended and a wait and see approach be adopted if the weather is clearing, then the trial may proceed once the weather clears.*
- (b) At the onset of either thunder and/or lightning the judging at the trial is to be suspended immediately until it has cleared and then the trial may proceed. The conditions should be reviewed every 15 minutes as with the hot weather conditions policy.*
- (c) However if after 90 minutes has elapsed since the suspension of judging, and the conditions are still unsafe the Club shall abandon the balance of the trial.*
- (d) Should the balance of the trial be abandoned, no refund of entry fees will apply.*
- (e) Should any competitor have completed all relevant class exercises prior to a trial being suspended and subsequently being abandoned then any qualifying scores attained will still stand.*

Please Note: *It is the responsibility of the Affiliate conducting the trial to monitor the conditions and invoke the above Policy when applicable.*